



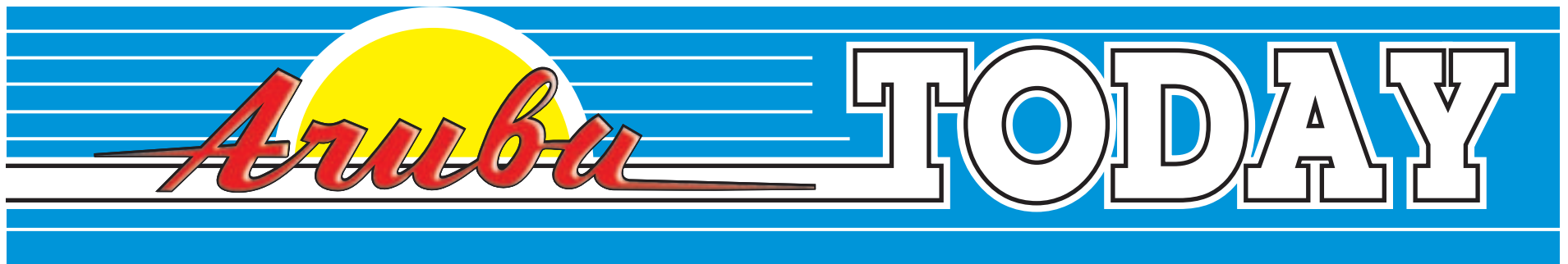
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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Thursday, September 4, 2014



U.S. President Barack Obama arrives at his and Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves's news conference at the Bank of Estonia in Tallinn, Estonia, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014. Wednesday's statement came as U.S. President Barack Obama arrived in Estonia in a show of solidarity with NATO allies who fear they could be the next target of Russia's aggression.

(AP Photo/Mindaugas Kulbis)

Obama: Ukraine 'A Moment Of Testing' For West

JULIE PACE
AP White House
Correspondent

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — President Barack Obama on Wednesday harshly condemned Russian aggression in Ukraine as a threat to peace in Europe and pledged that NATO will protect allies who fear they will be Moscow's next target.

Standing on Russia's doorstep, Obama declared "this is a moment of testing" for the Western alliance to stand up to the Kremlin. At the same time, the Pentagon announced that 200 U.S. soldiers would participate in an exercise in western Ukraine starting next week. Though largely a symbolic move, distant from

the conflict with Russian-backed separatists, it would mark the first presence of American ground troops in Ukraine since the crisis began. Obama's tough words set the stage for a pivotal summit of the 28-nation NATO alliance beginning Thursday in Wales. For years, Moscow seethed as NATO expanded its

membership and pushed its reach to Russia's borders, encompassing former republics of the Soviet Union. The backlash from Moscow was a long time coming, but now Vladimir Putin seems determined to assert Russia's role as a great power. Obama offered no new prescriptions for solving

the central conflict that has put Eastern Europe on edge: Russia's months-long incursion in Ukraine. Multiple rounds of U.S. and European economic sanctions have done little to shift Putin's tactics, and Obama remains staunchly opposed to U.S. military intervention.

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Obama: Ukraine 'a moment of testing' for West

Continued from Front

Unlike the Baltics and other Eastern European nations, Ukraine is not a member of NATO, meaning the U.S. and other allies have no treaty obligation to come to its defense.

Following Obama's remarks in Estonia, Putin spelled out a seven-point plan for ending hostilities in eastern Ukraine. The Rus-

officials said Obama's visit to Tallinn was meant to both reassure Baltic leaders that the U.S. would defend their sovereignty if that happened and to warn Putin that he would be risking a confrontation with the American military should he move in that direction.

"We will defend our NATO allies—every ally," Obama said in a speech to young people as well as political

the Soviet Union's nearly five-decade occupation of their territories. After the Soviet Union disintegrated, the Baltics turned to the West and joined the European Union and NATO in 2004, much to the chagrin of Russia.

The leaders of Latvia and Lithuania traveled to Estonia Wednesday to meet with Obama. While they welcomed U.S. commitments to the region, they



U.S. President Barack Obama speaks at Nordea Concert Hall in Tallinn, Estonia, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014. Obama was in Estonia for a one day visit where he met with Baltic State leaders before heading to the NATO Summit in Wales.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

sian leader said the rebels should halt their offensive and the Ukrainian government forces should pull back to a distance that would make it impossible for them to use artillery and rockets against residential areas.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's office said he was indeed working with Putin on a cease-fire. But Western leaders were skeptical, noting it wasn't the first attempt to halt the deadly conflict.

Poroshenko is to meet with Obama and European leaders on Thursday on the sidelines of the NATO summit.

The West's inability so far to stem the crisis has compounded fears in Eastern Europe that Putin could feel emboldened to make moves in other former Soviet territories. White House

and civil leaders. "In this alliance, there are no old members or new members, no senior partners or junior partners - there are just allies, pure and simple. And we will defend the territorial integrity of every single one."

In response to the Ukraine crisis, the U.S. will contribute troops and equipment to a rapid response force in Eastern Europe that would be able to deploy within 48 hours.

NATO has already stepped up its air, land and sea rotations in the region. And Obama announced Wednesday that he would send more Air Force units and aircraft to the Baltics, likely to Estonia's Amari Air Base. The three Baltic nations - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - have long had an affinity for the U.S., which never recognized

pressed for more, including permanent NATO bases near their borders.

Other alliance members are loath to take that step because of a 1997 agreement with the Kremlin in which NATO said it would not have a permanent troop presence of a significant size on Russia's border. Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves said NATO should have the flexibility to sidestep the agreement because security conditions have shifted drastically since its signing. "I would argue this is an unforeseen and new security environment," said Ilves, who grew up in the United States. "It does not mean we have to give up the whole act, but certainly when an agreement in certain parts no longer holds, well, then it's time to make a change." □

World leaders eye united front against ISIL militants

LARA JAKES

AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — World leaders, nervously eyeing a growing threat from Islamic State militants, will seek to build a united front this week against the violent extremist group and keep it from creeping beyond its borders.

Yet international plans to counter the Islamic State group — with combined military might, diplomatic pressure on abetting partners and economic penalties — pale in comparison to the extremists' ruthlessness and command of the swath of land it controls across parts of northern Syria and Iraq. For the second time in as many weeks, Islamic State militants released a video showing the beheading of an American journalist, and governments from Britain to Saudi Arabia to Australia warned of the potential of their citizens joining the fight — and then bringing the violence back home.

"Our objective is clear, and that is to degrade and destroy ISIL so that it's no longer a threat," President Barack Obama said Wednesday during a visit to Estonia, using an alternate acronym for the Islamic State. He later headed to Wales for an annual meeting of leaders of the NATO military alliance.

Separately, during an appearance in Maine, Vice President Joe Biden declared that the U.S. will pursue the militants to "the gates of hell."

In Wales, British Prime Minister David Cameron said he was considering joining a nearly monthlong U.S. airstrike campaign in Iraq against the Islamic State group, adding to military aid that London has already approved.

"We'll always ask ourselves what is in our national interest," Cameron said, according to Britain's Guardian newspaper. "Not ruling things out, but going forward in a deliberate, sensible, resolute way."

And in the Mideast, the United Arab Emirates called for a coordinated international effort to tackle the "global scourge" of terrorism, raising particular concern about the threat posed by Islamic State fighters. The heightened urgency reflected fears that the Islamic State was growing stronger in its quest to create a caliphate territory in the Mideast and systematically kill any who resist. The group is considered even more merciless toward its enemies than the al-Qaida terror network, and intelligence officials across the world warn that it may soon seek to seed its violence beyond its declared borders.

So far, the Islamic State has beheaded two American journalists it held captive for what the militants called payback for more than 120 U.S. airstrikes on its assets in northern Iraq since Aug. 8. Journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff were two of what the State Department has described as "a few" Americans still being held hostage by the group. The Islamic State also had threatened to kill a British man it is holding hostage.

In a statement Wednesday, a family spokesman said Sotloff dedicated his life to portraying the suffering of people in war zones, but was "no hero."

Family spokesman Barak Barfi told reporters gathered outside the family's suburban Miami home that Sotloff "tried to find good concealed in a world of darkness," and to give voice to the weak and suffering in the Arab world. Barfi said Sotloff was "no war junkie," but was drawn to the stories of the turbulent Middle East, and his family has pledged to "not allow our enemies to hold us hostage with the sole weapon they possess — fear." □

Christie tests diplomacy with trip to Mexico

JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie took a spin on the international stage Wednesday, bringing state business to Mexico City and testing his diplomatic savvy as he considers a run for U.S. president in 2016.

During three days of meetings with dignitaries, speeches on international trade and a walk among the locals, Christie was giving Americans a glimpse at how he might represent the nation overseas — and whether his signature blunt-talking style can be harnessed effectively in such a role.

Christie is just one of the Republicans trying to beef up his foreign policy credentials for a possible general election showdown against Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton, a former secretary of state. America's role in international affairs is likely to be a key issue in the 2016 contest regardless of the candidates. After consecutive elections focused largely on the American economy, foreign affairs has returned to the forefront with the rise of the Islamic State militant group in Syria and Iraq and the Russian-backed rebellion in Ukraine. Sen. Rand Paul, an eye doctor, recently returned from Guatemala, where he performed eye surgeries with news cameras in tow. Former Sen. Rick Santorum just returned from Israel; former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is there now. Two days after Christie returns from Mexico, Texas Gov. Rick Perry is expected to head to China and Japan.

Christie began his mission on a safe note, with scripted remarks in front of an investment seminar convened by one of his state's economic organizations, Choose New Jersey. Speaking at a lectern and sounding tired after an early-morning flight, he stressed the economic relationship between Mexico and his state. □

Gays scoff at St. Patrick's Day Parade decision

JIM FITZGERALD
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A decision by organizers of the city's St. Patrick's Day Parade to allow one gay organization to march is a disappointment after decades of fighting by gay groups for full participation, several advocates said Wednesday.

Some were dismayed that

the exclusion of all others ... is a far stretch from the full inclusion we deserve," Schaefer said.

Sarah Kate Ellis, president of the gay-rights group GLAAD, said parade organizers — who announced other gay groups could apply for the parade in 2016 and afterward — "must be held accountable" to that pledge.

March 17 under an identifying banner.

Parade Committee vice chairman John Lahey said the NBC group's application was the only one the committee had received from a gay group for next year's parade. He also said, "We don't encourage or discourage applications from other groups." In the past, organizers said

But gay leaders said the organizers were forced into it. "They weren't nudged, they were shoved into making this decision," said Fred Sainz, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign. "They were increasingly beginning to look like dinosaurs."

"In one of the world's most diverse and inclusive cities, not to allow gay people to march was becoming an anachronistic decision that they could no longer reasonably justify."

The inclusion of OUT@NBCUniversal came in the midst of major triumphs for gays and supporters in court rulings on same-sex marriage. When a federal judge on Wednesday upheld Louisiana's ban on same-sex marriages, it was the first loss for gay-marriage supporters after more than 20 consecutive rulings overturning bans in other states. And it came after Pope Francis set the stage for a radical shift in tone about Roman Catholic Church teaching on homosexuality when he said "Who am I to judge?" about the sexual orientation of priests.

Parade organizers said they were "remaining loyal to church teachings," and Cardinal Timothy Dolan, next year's grand marshal, said the committee had his "confidence and support." "I have no trouble with the decision at all," he said. The exclusion of gay groups prompted first-term Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio to refuse to march in the 2014 parade, and Guinness and Heineken withdrew their sponsorships. □



FILE -- Mayor Bill de Blasio marches in the St. Pat's for All Parade, which is open to all groups, in New York, March 2, 2014. The organizers of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade announced on Wednesday that they are lifting a ban on openly gay groups marching under their own banner, a striking reflection of the evolution of gay rights in the city and in American society.

(Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)

the organizers had chosen just one lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender group to participate next year after ending a ban on them. Others expressed continuing mistrust.

Nathan Schaefer, executive director of Empire State Pride Agenda, called the announcement "disappointing and self-serving."

"While this development is long overdue, inviting one group to march at

"As an Irish-Catholic American, I look forward to a fully inclusive St. Patrick's Day Parade that I can share with my wife and children, just as my own parents shared with me," Ellis said.

The New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee said Wednesday that OUT@NBCUniversal, an LGBT resource group at the company that broadcasts the parade, would be marching up Manhattan's Fifth Avenue on

gays were free to march in the nation's biggest and oldest St. Patrick's Day Parade but only with other groups and not with banners identifying them as gay.

The exclusion had made participation in the march a political issue in recent years. The committee said it made the "gesture of goodwill to the LGBT community in our continuing effort to keep the parade above politics."

Biden: We'll follow terrorists to 'gates of hell'

DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

KITTERY, Maine (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden on Wednesday said America will follow the terrorists who posted videos showing the beheading of two journalists "to the gates of hell." Biden said the Islamic State militant group responsible for beheading James Foley and Steven Sotloff won't intimidate the

United States.

"The American people are so much stronger, so much more resolved than any enemy can fully understand," Biden said at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine. "As a nation, we're united. And when people harm Americans, we don't retreat, we don't forget."

A videotape showing Sotloff's murder was broad-

cast Tuesday, two weeks after the same group released a video showing Foley's killing. "We take care of those who are grieving and when that's finished, they should know we will follow them to the gates of hell until they are brought to justice," Biden said. "Because hell is where they'll reside." Biden, a potential 2016 Democratic candidate for

president, has used "gates of hell" before, invoking it in an October 2012 vice presidential debate when talking about the killing of Osama bin Laden. Foley was from New Hampshire and Sotloff attended school there, bringing their killings close to home for many in attendance at Biden's speech. The shipyard employs many New Hampshire residents. □

17-year sentence for Michigan porch shooting

MARY M. CHAPMAN

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DETROIT - The defendant stood facing the judge in Wayne County Circuit Court here on Wednesday, speaking tremulously and in a low voice, and apologized to the family of Renisha McBride, the 19-year-old woman he shot and killed on the front porch of his suburban home last year.

"She was too young to leave this world, and for that I'll carry guilt and sorrow forever," said Theodore P. Wafer, a 55-year-old airport maintenance worker who fired a shotgun at McBride after she pounded on his front door in the middle of the night on Nov. 2.

Wafer's lawyer, Cheryl Carpenter, wept while arguing for leniency. "This wasn't planned," she said. "He didn't go out looking for this. It came to him."

But Judge Dana Hathaway was unmoved. "I'm certain

that you are remorseful, but none of that excuses what happened," she said, calling Wafer an otherwise law-abiding citizen who had most likely acted out

of anger and panic.

Hathaway sentenced Wafer - who was convicted on Aug. 7 of second-degree murder, involuntary manslaughter and a fel-

ony weapons charge - to a minimum of 17 years in prison, including a mandatory 2-year sentence on the weapons count.

The case initially stirred ra-

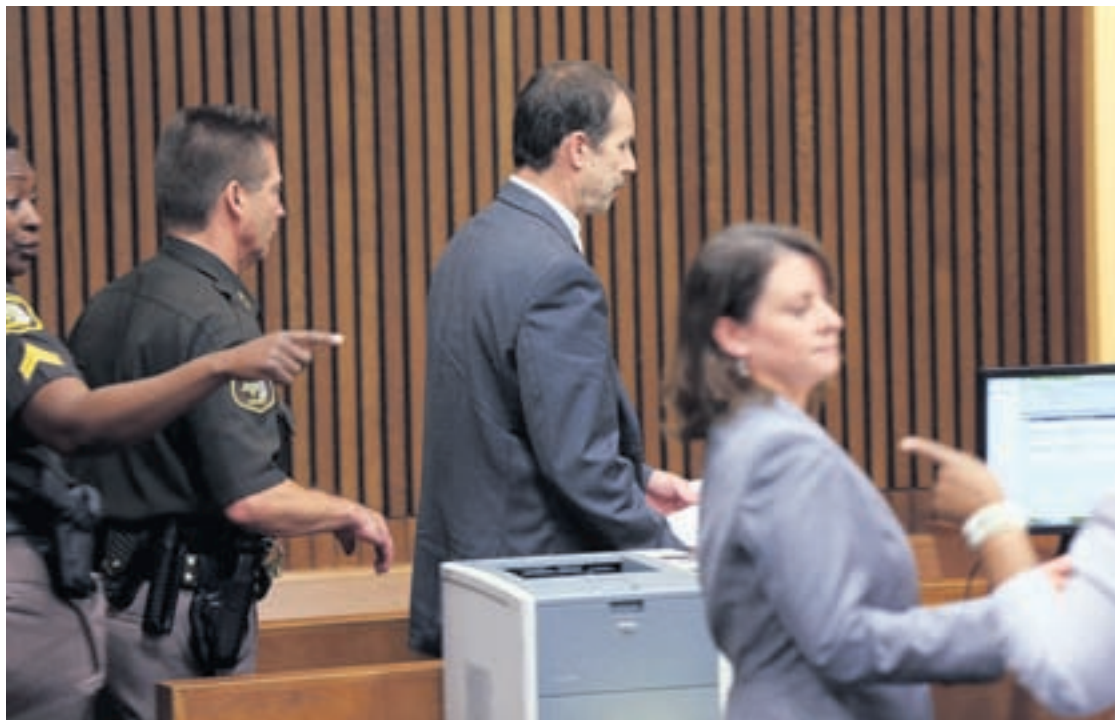
cial tension, because Wafer is white and McBride was black. But neither side raised the issue at trial.

Before sentencing, Jasmine McBride, the victim's sister, addressed the court. "I believe Mr. Wafer needs time to think about his cowardly actions," she said, as Wafer stared ahead.

Afterward, she said she was satisfied.

"I believe my sister can rest peacefully now," she said. The victim's father, Walter Simmons, told the court he lamented the loss of the opportunity "to see Renisha grow up, become a woman and have kids."

The facts of the case were never in dispute: Early on Nov. 2, McBride pounded on the front and side doors of Wafer's bungalow. Minutes later, Wafer, who had been roused from his sleep, opened the inside front door, fired a shotgun blast through a locked screen door and killed her.



Theodore Wafer during his sentencing trial in Detroit, Sept. 3, 2014. Wafer was sentenced to a minimum of 17 years in prison on Wednesday in the death of Renisha McBride, who he shot and killed last November as she stood on the front porch of his house.

(Fabrizio Costantini/The New York Times)

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Creditor wants 75 cents on the dollar for Detroit debt

COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — An attorney for one of Detroit's creditors told a judge overseeing the city's historic bankruptcy Wednesday that Detroit could afford to pay 75 cents on the dollar to settle its debt if it sold some masterpieces at an art museum.

But an attorney for Detroit told federal Judge Steven Rhodes in his opening statement that the debt-restructuring plan focused first on resolving a dire financial situation and does not discriminate against creditors. Syncora Guarantee says Detroit's debt restructuring plan would pay some creditors less than 10 cents on the dollar. Syncora Guarantee attorney Marc Kieselstein was completing his opening statement when federal Judge Steven Rhodes asked for the percentage of what he believed Detroit could offer the New York-based bond insurer and where the money would come from. "There's the art," Kieselstein said. "You could sell one or two pieces. You can finance some of the pieces to get that number."

Syncora has said Detroit's blueprint for emerging from the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history is unfair for financial creditors.

The trial's second day began with attorney Bruce Bennett telling Rhodes that the plan, put together by state-appointed emergency manager Kevyn Orr and his restructuring team, has to be followed in order for Detroit to be stronger and viable.

"The city did all of this with the proper purpose of restructuring its financial affairs," Bennett said, adding, "The facts will show Detroit has earned this court's help."

Detroit wants to cut \$12 billion in unsecured debt to about \$5 billion through its plan of adjustment, which must be approved by Rhodes. Most creditors, including more than 30,000 retirees and city employees, have endorsed the plan of adjustment.

Syncora Guarantee is not one of those creditors. Kieselstein said the city's plan is "so flawed in its structure, so dismissive of basic fiduciary duties and so lacking in evidentiary support that it cannot be confirmed without doing serious mayhem to the rule of law."

Syncora has said its claims are about \$400 million. It is one of about 12 creditors opposing the plan in court. Syncora and some other creditors have pushed for the city to look into the sale of assets, including city-owned pieces in the Detroit Institute of Arts.

The threat to artwork prompted the creation of the so-called Grand Bargain — commitments from the state, major corporations, foundations and others to donate more than \$800 million over 20 years to soften cuts to city pensions while placing pieces in the museum into a trust and out of the reach of debtor demands.

Pensioners this summer voted in favor of Orr's plan, which calls for general retirees to take a 4.5 percent pension cut and lose annual inflation adjustments. Retired police officers and firefighters would lose a portion of their annual cost-of-living raise.

Orr has called the impact of Detroit's bankruptcy on pensioners the "human dimension." But Kieselstein said the human dimension is legally impermissible under bankruptcy law.

"It's enough to sink this ship," he said of the plan. "Bankruptcy is sadly the land of broken promises."

The trial is likely to take a number of days, during which lawyers from the city and other creditors will debate the city's debt, the rights of its creditors and what is allowable under bankruptcy law. □

AP source:

Tesla selects Nevada for battery plant

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

RENO, Nevada (AP) — Tesla Motors has chosen Nevada as the site for a massive, \$5 billion factory that will pump out batteries for a new generation

val's office said only that he would make a "major economic development announcement" Thursday afternoon. A spokesman for Tesla, based in Palo Alto, California, said company representatives would be at the Capitol in Carson

has offered during negotiations with Tesla. Based on Musk's public statements of what he expects a winning bid would be worth, the incentive package likely will total at least \$500 million. Sandoval would have to call a special session of



Wild mustangs play on the hills at the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center in Sparks, Nev. Tesla Motors has selected the site in Nevada for a massive, \$5 billion factory that it will build to pump out batteries for a new generation of electric cars, a person familiar with the company's plans said Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014.

(AP Photo/Scott Sonner)

of less expensive electric cars, a person familiar with the company's plans said Wednesday.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because no official announcement was made, said work soon will resume at an industrial park outside Reno. Nevada still must approve a package of incentives Tesla negotiated.

Four other states — California, Texas, Arizona and New Mexico — were vying for the project and the estimated 6,500 jobs it will bring.

Tesla needs what it calls the "gigafactory" to make cheaper batteries for its Model 3, a mass-market electric car the company hopes to sell by 2017 for around \$35,000. Currently, Tesla offers only the Model S sedan, which starts at \$70,000.

Nevada Gov. Brian Sando-

val for the announcement but offered no other details.

Tesla has done site-preparation work at the Reno Tahoe Industrial Center but had not publicly committed to building in Nevada, instead waiting as other states put together their best packages of economic incentives.

This spring, Tesla CEO Elon Musk announced that the company would take the extremely unusual step of spending millions to prepare sites in two states — or perhaps even three — before choosing a winner.

The person familiar with Tesla's plans told The Associated Press a second site still will be prepared, in case Nevada is unable to deliver the incentives it has promised — or possibly to build a second factory.

Sandoval has declined to discuss any incentives he

the state Legislature to approve tax breaks, grants or other incentives of that magnitude.

Nevada's other advantages include low tax rates, plenty of sun and wind to generate "green" power, and relative proximity to Tesla's manufacturing plant in the San Francisco Bay Area. The industrial park 15 miles east of Reno also is near a deposit of lithium, an essential element to produce the battery cells.

Tesla will pay about half of the factory's cost. The other major investor is Panasonic, which will manufacture the lithium-ion battery cells and invest in equipment.

Lance Gilman, principal and director of the Reno Tahoe Industrial Center, said he had not been told of a final decision.

"It would be the most exciting news of the century to me," he said. □

US Auto Sales: SUV sales trigger car discounts

**TOM KRISHER
DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writers**

DETROIT (AP) — The seismic shift in American car-buying toward trucks and crossover SUVs is creating great deals on compact and midsize cars. The shift, which has been going on for more than a year, is hurting car sales so much that automakers are offering bigger discounts to keep moving metal. The change became even

automotive website. Every midsize sedan is comfortable, looks good and performs well, so price is nearly the only differentiator, she says. Automakers spent an average of \$1,841 per car to discount compacts last month, up 7 percent from a year ago, while prices fell 1.2 percent, according to estimates from Edmunds. On midsize cars, companies spent an average of \$2,344 on discounts, up 4 percent. Average sales

those vehicles have pretty large customer bases," she said. "They see some of the deals that are out there." Edmunds estimates that Honda spent \$2,013 per car on discounts for the Accord in August, more than three times what it spent a year ago. Altima discounts were \$2,293, up 5 percent, while Ford discounted the Fusion by \$2,774, up 42 percent. Crossovers, which are built on car underpinnings, making them more efficient



A 2015 Chrysler 200 automobile moves down the assembly line at the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant in Sterling Heights, Mich. All automakers reported U.S. sales figures for August 2014 on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014. Chrysler and Nissan both posted double-digit U.S. sales gains last month, signs of strong August for the industry.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

more pronounced in August, with companies such as General Motors and Chrysler reporting that truck sales, including crossover SUVs, were up while car sales fell.

The increasing SUV and truck popularity, and discount-fueled sales of some midsize cars, helped U.S. auto industry to its best August in 11 years last month, with sales rising 5.4 percent from a year ago to 1.58 million, according to Ward's Automotive. While prices remain high for trucks and SUVs, they're either falling or rising only slightly on cars, and that means good deals for consumers.

"It's definitely a good time to buy a midsize car," says Jessica Caldwell, senior analyst at the Edmunds.com

price rose slightly as buyers added features.

Yet for some brands, deals brought out car buyers. Honda reported record sales of its Accord midsize car in August, up 33 percent to more than 51,000. Nissan reported an August record for its Altima midsize car, with sales up 4 percent. And Ford's Fusion also did well, with sales up nearly 20 percent. Accord sales were so high that it again unseated Toyota's midsize Camry as the top-selling car in the U.S. for the month. Camry sales fell 1.5 percent to just over 44,000. Caldwell theorized that Accord, Fusion and Altima sales were aided by discounts that brought owners with older versions of the cars off the sidelines. "All of

and maneuverable than the old truck-based SUV. They also get gas mileage that's similar to cars. Buyers, especially empty-nest baby boomers who are downsizing, like the storage space and utility, said Erich Merkle, Ford's top sales analyst.

Small crossovers such as Honda's CR-V accounted for 17.3 percent of the market last month, two points higher than a year ago. But small-cars were just under 22 percent of the market in August, down from just over 22 percent last year. Midsize car market share fell 0.2 percentage points to 16 percent, Merkle said. The shift, he predicted, will continue for the foreseeable future, although it may slow next year. □

Airlines among strongest performing stocks in 2014

**DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer**

DALLAS (AP) — You just spent a small fortune on airline tickets — and the extra charges for the bags — for your family's summer vacation. All your flights were packed with other passengers who also paid richly for the ride.

No wonder airline profits are sky-high.

Back home now, you might ask if you can share in the airlines' good fortune by buying their stock.

The answer: maybe you can, but you missed the big payoff.

Airlines have been among the strongest stocks so far in 2014, easily beating broad measures such as the Standard & Poor's 500 index and the Dow Jones industrial average. Since late 2011, when speculation sprouted about a merger between American Airlines and US Airways, the Arca airline index has soared 186 percent. During that time frame, Delta Air Lines Inc. shares have risen fivefold, Southwest Airlines Co. shares have more than quadrupled, and United Continental Holdings Inc. has nearly tripled.

In the same period, the S&P 500 rose 68 percent, and the Dow gained 48 percent.

Most U.S. airlines have recovered fully from the one-two combination of record-high oil prices and the recession, which staggered them in 2008. Profit at nine leading U.S. airlines more than doubled to \$3.8 billion in the first half of this year, compared with a year earlier.

A growing U.S. economy should encourage air travel, and many economists expect growth of around 3 percent in the second half of this year, up from 1.1 percent in the first half.

Still, the carriers will be hard-pressed to keep growing profits. Delta said Wednesday that revenue for every seat flown one mile — an important statistic in the airline business — grew 2 percent in August, a slowdown from earlier this year.

Savanthi Syth, an analyst with Raymond James, said that investors considering airlines must keep expectations in check. "The bear case would be that the big improvements are done, and earnings growth is going to slow," she said, noting that it will be hard to repeat the returns of the last two years unless the economy booms. Even so, she thinks there are still potential gains for airline stocks.

Analysts who have seen their longtime faith in the airlines rewarded during past two-plus years say this is no time to sell.

"If you look at airline stocks against other transports or other industrial stocks, the valuation is still comically low," said Hunter Keay, an analyst who tracks airline stocks for Wolfe Research.

He says that Delta and some others still have low price-earnings ratios. That's because investors aren't sure that the airlines will remain profitable for the long haul, even through downturns.

"The airlines still haven't really been tested by another crisis" such as another huge spike in fuel prices, Keay said, and until they are, investors will naturally be skeptical.

The biggest threat to the airlines' rally, besides a slump in the economy or the broader stock market, is the fear that they would add too many flights too soon, leading to a glut of seats and triggering fare wars. When such concerns emerged this summer, particularly with routes between U.S. and Europe, the stocks slipped. □

US Financial Front:

American factory orders up record 10.5% in July

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Business orders for U.S. factory goods shot up by a record amount in July, reflecting a surge in demand in the volatile category of commercial aircraft.

But outside of transportation, orders actually fell slightly during the month although the setback was expected to be temporary. Factory orders rose 10.5 percent in July, the biggest one-month increase on records going back to 1992, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. Orders for civilian jetliners rose four-fold. But excluding transportation, orders edged down 0.8 percent and a key category that serves as a proxy for business investment plans fell 0.7 percent.

Manufacturing has been a source of strength this year, helped by robust demand for new cars, other consumer items and business equipment. Economists expect that strength to continue.

The report showed that durable goods, items expected to last at least three years, were up 22.6 percent in July, unchanged from the estimate in a preliminary report last week. Orders for nondurable goods such as paper, chemicals and food were down 0.9 percent in July after a 0.4 percent increase in June.

In addition to the surge in demand for airplanes, orders for motor vehicles and parts rose 7.3 percent, reflecting continued strong consumer demand for new cars and trucks.

But there was slippage in other areas. Orders for primary metals such as steel fell 0.3 percent, demand for machinery was down 1.2 percent and orders for computers and other electronics products fell 14.7 percent.

Despite this weakness, most economists expect that manufacturing production will provide solid support for economic growth in the second half of this year.

While a key category viewed as a proxy for busi-

ness investment plans dropped 0.5 percent in July, the dip followed a sizable 5.4 percent increase in June. The government reported last month that

investment by businesses in new equipment grew at a solid 10.7 percent annual rate in the April-June period, erasing a decline in the first three months of the

year.

Factory output rose for a sixth consecutive month in July, increasing by 1 percent. The gain was led by a jump in production of motor vehicles, furniture, textiles and metals.

In a sign that momentum in manufacturing was continuing, the Institute for Supply Management reported Tuesday that its gauge of manufacturing activity grew in August by the strongest pace in more than three years as factories cranked out more goods and new orders rose.

The index rose to 59 from 57.1 in July. That was the highest reading since March 2011.



An assembly line worker works on a 2015 Chrysler 200 automobile at the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant in Sterling Heights, Mich. The Commerce Department released its report on orders to U.S. factories for July on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

ATENCION

CAP Compania Arubano di Petroleo N.V. ta informa publico en general cu e compania REPSOL ta haciendo un investigacion di exploracion sismico den lama rond di Aruba.

- E exploracion sismico aki ta tuma lugha den cumplimiento di un contract entre REPSOL y CAP a base di articulo 3 y 4 di e "Petroleumverordening zeegebied Aruba".
- E investigacion sismico a cuminsa dia 2 di juli 2014 y lo dura mas o menos 3 luna.
- E barco sismico M/V Polar Duke lo lastra 12 kabel cu un largura di 8 km pa 10 km.
- Dos otro barco di apoyo CASSANDRA VI y TARASKA RG lo duna sosten logistico na e operacionnan di e investigacion y lo mantene comunicacion cu barconan den e area.
- Tur actividad lo ta na un distancia di mas di 3 kilometer for di costa.
- CAP N.V. ta haci un peticion na tur doño di barco pa coopera pa e investigacion por tuma lugar na un forma sigur y adecuado.

CAP Compania Arubano di Petroleo N.V. brings to the attention of the public in general that the company REPSOL is conducting a seismic exploration survey offshore Aruba.

- This seismic survey is conducted in fulfillment of a contract between REPSOL and CAP in accordance with articles 3 and 4 of the Petroleum Ordinance offshore Aruba.
- The seismic survey has started the 2nd of July 2014 and will have a duration of approximately 3 months.
- The seismic vessel M/V Polar Duke will tow 12 submarine cables of 8 km - 10 km.
- Two support vessels CASSANDRA VI and TARASKA RG will give logistical assistance to the operations during the seismic survey and will maintain communications with other ships in the area.
- All seismic acquisition will be conducted at a distance of more than 3 kilometer from the coast.
- CAP N.V. requests the co-operation of boat owners in order to ensure that the survey is conducted in a safe and proper manner.



COMPANIA ARUBANO DI PETROLEO



Fed survey finds moderate growth across most of U.S.

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy strengthened in all regions of the country in July and August, in areas from consumer spending to auto sales to tourism, the Federal Reserve reported in a survey released Wednesday.

All 12 of the Fed's regions reported growth. Six — New York, Cleveland, Chicago, Minneapolis, Dallas and San Francisco — characterized growth as "moderate." The other regions reported somewhat slower expansion. Four described growth as "modest," and two noted signs of improvement.

The survey found no clear evidence that the economy is expanding so fast that the Fed might soon need to begin raising inter-

est rates to prevent inflation.

Most regions reported optimism about key economic sectors. A majority cited increased loan demand, for example, and hotel occupancies.

The survey, known as the Beige Book, is based on anecdotal reports from businesses and will be considered with other data when Fed policymakers next meet Sept. 16-17.

After that meeting, economists think the Fed will reduce its monthly bond purchases for a seventh time but will leave its key short-term rate unchanged.

That rate has been near zero since December 2008. The Fed has kept rates ultra-low to try to reduce high unemployment and energize a sluggish recovery.

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Berkeley pushes new boundary with free marijuana

IAN LOVETT

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BERKELEY, Calif. - Since the birth of the Free Speech Movement half a century ago, this city has prided itself on its liberal values and policies, be they generous benefits for the needy or a look-the-other-way attitude toward marijuana use.

Now, the city is bringing those policies together with a new amenity for the poor here: free pot.

Beginning next August, medical marijuana dispensaries in this city will be required to donate at least 2 percent of their cannabis to low-income residents. The City Council approved the requirement this summer - unanimously no less - with the hope of making the drug, which can sell for up to \$400 an ounce at dispensaries, affordable for all residents.

But the charity cannabis mandate, which city officials believe is the first such law, provoked a swift backlash from critics who mocked it as a tie-dyed fantasy in a city already famous for liberal experiments.

"Instead of taking steps to help the most economically vulnerable residents get out of that state, the city has said, 'Let's just get everybody high,'" said John Lovell, a lobbyist for the California Narcotic Officers' Association. Lovell said the free marijuana would sap patients' motivation to look for work - after all, it is not a drug known for encouraging anyone to get off the couch - and could easily be resold on the street for profit by people who are short on money.

"I don't see anything progressive about that," Lovell said.

Tom Bates, the mayor of Berkeley, said the city was simply trying to ensure equal access to a drug he emphasized was medicine, useful for treating cancer pain and other maladies.

"There are some truly compassionate cases that need to have medical marijuana," Bates said. "But it's expensive. You hear stories about people

on the street or legally in a dispensary, access to the drug depends almost entirely on whether you can pay for it.

Almost anyone with \$40 to spare can find a doctor who will prescribe cannabis to treat insomnia or migraines or low appetite or something else (but especially insomnia).

Yet, because marijuana remains illegal under federal

obtain medical cannabis. Across the bay in San Francisco, David Theisen, 56, has relied on what he calls "compassion," a popular term for free medical cannabis, to deal with insomnia.

After moving to the city several years ago, he quickly learned the compassion schedule at several dispensaries, which give away a few dried-out buds

year for individuals).

Dispensaries, which are prohibited by California law from turning a profit, will also have to hire security guards to patrol nearby, in order to deter crime (though, true to Berkeley's character, the guards will not be allowed to carry firearms).

One of the city's largest dispensaries, Berkeley Patients Group, already gives away marijuana to patients who cannot pay. One of them is Arnie Passman, a poet and longtime Berkeley activist, who has been a recipient for about a decade; he could not remember exactly how long, nor was he entirely sure what condition his prescription was meant to treat.

"It could be for my allergies, or my arthritis - you know what happens to us folks: We forget," said Passman, 78. "I can give it a blanket 'I feel better.' It helps me get going in the morning."

But Sean Luse, the dispensary's chief operating officer, worries that the city mandate could lead to resale on the street. Currently, about 100 people, not all of them Berkeley residents, receive free marijuana from Berkeley Patients Group, representing about 1 percent of the drug the facility dispenses. The new law will now compel the dispensary to give away about twice as much.

"No one has really quantified the legitimate demand; they just set the 2 percent threshold out of thin air," Luse said. "Are we going to be forcing medicine on people just because it's the law? There could definitely be a financial incentive for folks to resell it." □



Marijuana at Berkeley Patients Group, a dispensary with its own program of free doses for low-income patients, in Berkeley, Calif. Beginning next August, medical marijuana dispensaries in the city will be required to donate at least 2 percent of their cannabis to low-income residents.

(Jim Wilson/The New York Times)

dying from cancer who don't have the money." Bates, a former state legislator and football player at the University of California, Berkeley, has also championed home brewing and organic vegetables on school menus. As for medical marijuana, "It's a novel ideal to have it available to the poor," he said. "Berkeley is sort of known for doing new things."

Nearly 20 years after California became the first state to legalize medical cannabis, Berkeley's new law highlights a paradox of marijuana as medicine: Whether it is sold illegally

law, insurance companies refuse to cover such treatments, which can run to hundreds of dollars per ounce for designer strains like All Star Sonoma Coma at local dispensaries.

It is not as if marijuana, medical or otherwise, is tough to find here, amid the vegan restaurants in downtown Berkeley and the smoke shops on Telegraph Avenue.

At least in the San Francisco Bay Area, where marijuana is more socially accepted than cigarettes in some circles, an informal network already exists to help low-income people

to the first comers once or twice a month. When one dispensary cut back, Theisen, a former line cook who remains unemployed, said he started going days without sleeping.

"I can't afford to buy it, but my need isn't any less than anyone else's," he said.

The compassion system has now been formalized in Berkeley, where city officials aim to provide low-income patients with a more reliable supply of medical cannabis. Only Berkeley residents are eligible for the free marijuana, and they must show proof of income (less than \$32,000 a

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Russia, Ukraine working on possible cease-fire plan

JIM HEINTZ
V. ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia and Ukraine said Wednesday they are working on a deal to halt months of fighting in eastern Ukraine, but Western leaders expressed skepticism — noting it wasn't the first attempt to end the deadly conflict.

On the eve of a crucial NATO summit, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's office said he and Russian President Vladimir Putin had agreed on steps for a cease-fire.

In a televised statement, Putin spelled out a seven-point plan for ending hostilities in eastern Ukraine, where Russian-backed separatists scored significant gains last week against government forces after four months of fighting.

Putin, speaking on a visit to Mongolia, said the rebels should halt their offensive and the Ukrainian government forces should pull back to a distance that would make it impossible for them to use artillery and rockets against residential areas.

He also urged international monitoring of a cease-fire, a prisoners exchange and the delivery of humanitarian aid to war-ravaged regions.

Representatives of Russia, Ukraine, the rebels and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe could finalize the peace deal as early as Friday, Putin said.

Poroshenko also voiced hope that Friday's talks in the Belarusian capital of



Russian President Vladimir Putin waves after a wreath laying ceremony at the monument to Soviet Marshal Georgy Zhukov in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014. A day ahead of a NATO summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin issued his own peace plan for eastern Ukraine, calling on the Russian-backed insurgents there to "stop advancing" and urging Ukraine to withdraw its troops from the region.

(AP Photo/Alexei Nikolsky)

Minsk would allow both sides to "take real steps to achieve peace."

He discussed the plan with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, saying it should include the OSCE monitoring of a cease-fire, the withdrawal of foreign troops, a buffer zone on the border and the release of all Ukrainian prisoners held in Russia, according to his office.

The Ukrainian leader met with Putin in Minsk last week, but they didn't announce any agreement after that session.

Ukrainian officials said the bodies of 87 soldiers had been retrieved from the area near the city of Ilovaysk, the scene of a horrific government defeat over the weekend. Ukraine and the West said the rebel offensive was spearheaded by regular Russian army units, an allegation Moscow has rejected.

Saudi Arabia:

American, 23 others sentenced for terrorism

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)

— A court in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday sentenced an American and 23 other people to prison on charges they created a terrorist cell and planned attacks on foreigners and oil pipelines. The official Saudi Press Agency reported that their sentences range from two to 27 years in prison for planning attacks against Saudi Arabia and its smaller neighbor of Bahrain.

The state report said the U.S. national was sentenced to 17 years prison, six of which are for cyber-

crimes. He was ordered deported after completing his sentencing. The years he has already spent in prison will be counted as part of his sentencing.

State media did not release any names, did not disclose further details on when the attacks were planned and did not say when the men had been arrested. All have 30 days to appeal. The group also includes one Yemeni while the rest are Saudi. The Specialized Criminal Court, created in 2008 to try terrorism cases, slapped them with travel

bans after prison.

Other charges against various members of the group include financing terrorism, embracing "deviant ideology", disobeying the king, using the media to support terrorism, providing shelter to wanted people and training for combat.

Countries around the world are growing increasingly concerned that battle-hardened extremist fighters are training a new generation of international fighters that could launch attacks back home. Those fears have gained urgency be-

cause of the horrific methods of Islamic State fighters in Syria and Iraq.

Saudi Arabia, which at times turned a blind eye to its citizens taking up arms against its foes in Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq, criminalized fighting in conflicts abroad this year.

They have also made sweeping arrests in recent days. Saudi police announced on Monday they had arrested 88 people suspected of being part of an al-Qaida cell that was planning attacks inside and outside the kingdom.

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Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Tomasz Sikorski holds a basket of apples to protest Russia's ban on food imports in Milan, Italy. On the day that the outlook for the European economy may have become a bit brighter amid hopes of a cease-fire in eastern Ukraine, a closely watched survey Wednesday showed the extent to which the crisis in the country has weighed on business confidence across the continent.

(AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

Markit:

Ukraine crisis dents EU economy

PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — On the day that the outlook for the European economy may have become a bit brighter amid hopes of a cease-fire in eastern Ukraine, a closely watched survey Wednesday showed the extent to which the crisis in the country has weighed on business confidence across the continent. In its monthly survey, financial information company Markit highlighted tensions in Ukraine for a sharp fall in its gauge of business activity for the 18-country eurozone. Its purchasing managers' index, which collates figures from the manufacturing and services sectors, fell to 52.5 points in August from July's 3-month high of 53.8. Though it remains above the 50 threshold that signals growth, the indicator is

at its lowest level this year and below the preliminary estimate of 52.8. "Tensions in Ukraine are clearly having an impact on confidence, subduing business spending and investment," said Chris Williamson, Markit's chief economist. Separately Wednesday, the European Union's statistics office, Eurostat, said eurozone retail sales fell by a monthly 0.4 percent in July. The figures echo a raft of recent findings that any momentum that the eurozone economy may have been showing earlier in the year came to a halt this summer. In the second quarter, the economy posted flat growth, raising fears of an unprecedented triple-dip recession. The hope in Europe is now that the geopolitical tensions that have been hob-

bling Europe's economy will ebb following a day of fast-paced developments. First, Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko announced that a cease-fire for eastern Ukraine had been agreed on with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Putin then issued his own peace plan, calling on the Russian-backed insurgents there to "stop advancing" and urging Ukraine to withdraw its troops from the region. Though details were sketchy and there was no immediate indication that the fighting would stop, investors around Europe responded positively to the news. The Stoxx 50 index of leading European shares was up 0.9 percent, while Germany's DAX spiked 1.3 percent. Unsurprisingly, Russia's RTS index was the standout performer, trading 5.6 percent higher.

UN seeks global help to free abducted UN peacekeepers

EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council called Wednesday on "countries with influence" to press al-Qaida-linked insurgents to release 45 U.N. peacekeepers from Fiji abducted last week in the Golan Heights. A press statement approved by all 15 council members after a briefing by U.N. peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous again demanded the immediate and unconditional release of the Fijian peacekeepers. Heavy clashes have raged in the Golan Heights since Syrian rebels captured a border crossing between Syria and Israel near the abandoned town of Quneitra last Wednesday. Fighters from al-Qaida's Syria branch, the Nusra Front, abducted the Fijian peacekeepers and surrounded two Filipino contingents serving in the U.N. force known as UNDOF the following day.

The Security Council welcomed the news that all the Filipinos were safe and commended the U.N. peacekeeping mission's quick reaction force for its assistance. Ladsous told reporters the peacekeepers have shown "steadfastness and courage" and said the U.N. is working to obtain the swift and unconditional release of the Fijians. "We are sparing no effort to obtain the release of the detained peacekeepers," he said, but gave no details stressing the importance of "discretion." Fiji commander's Brig. Gen. Mosese Tikoitoga said Tuesday that the Nusra Front has made three demands for the release of the peacekeepers: It wants to

be taken off the U.N. terrorist list, wants humanitarian aid delivered to parts of the Syrian capital Damascus, and wants compensation for three of its fighters it says were killed in a shoot-out with U.N. officers. The Nusra Front accused the U.N. of doing nothing to help the Syrian people since the uprising against President Bashar Assad began in March 2011. It said the Fijians were seized in retaliation for the U.N.'s ignoring "the daily shedding of the Muslims' blood in Syria" and even colluding with Assad's army "to facilitate its movement to strike the vulnerable Muslims" through a buffer zone in the Golan Heights. UNDOF was established in May 1974 following intensified firing on the Israel-Syria border after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in 1967, and Syria has campaigned for decades for return of the land. For nearly four decades, the U.N. monitors helped enforce a stable truce between Israel and Syria but the Golan Heights has increasingly become a battlefield in the more than three-year-old Syrian conflict. The mission currently has troops from six countries: Fiji, India, Ireland, Nepal, Netherlands and the Philippines. A number of countries have withdrawn their peacekeepers due to the escalating violence. Fiji's commander says the nation won't abandon its mission in Syria, and he is even willing to replace the 45 troops if they need to recuperate if and when they are released. Ladsous said UNDOF has been strengthened with armored equipment and other military hardware.



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5 women named to Japan's Cabinet, tying past high

YURI KAGEYAMA
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's prime minister picked five women for his Cabinet on Wednesday, matching the past record and sending the strongest message yet about his determination to change deep-seated views on gender and revive the economy by getting women on board as workers and leaders.

Japan has a vast pool of talented, well-educated women, but they are far under-represented in positions of power in government and corporations. Women make up 10 percent of parliament and just 3.9 percent of board members of listed Japanese companies, versus 12 percent at U.S. corporations and 18 percent in France.

Women here have long complained about the obstacles to getting taken seriously at work, receiving equal pay for equal work and finding child care or helpful spouses.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reiterated Wednesday that a key part of his "Abenomics" growth strategy is making greater use of women and promoting them to leadership posts — a campaign dubbed "womenomics," a term he has embraced. Abe has set a goal of having women in 30 percent of leadership positions in both the private and public sectors by 2020.

"Realizing a society where women can shine is a challenge our Cabinet has undertaken," he said during a news conference. "I look forward to the wind of change these women will bring."

Having five women in the Cabinet, which currently has 18 members, is extremely rare for Japan. It matches the highest number set back in 2001 under Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. Abe's previous Cabinet, dissolved earlier in the day, had two female ministers.

Although ministerial posi-

tions are in some ways ceremonial in Japan, where government affairs are largely run by professional bureaucrats, expanding the presence of women in

doesn't have to be a reason. I am rooting for them," said Kazuko Watanabe, a public relations specialist in the port city of Yokohama. "I hope they do their best to



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, front row center, and his new Cabinet members walk for a group photo session following the first Cabinet meeting at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014.

(AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

a place as high profile as the Cabinet is a step toward sexual equality.

"As a woman, I am happy to have even one additional woman in power. There

get the job done."

Yuko Obuchi, daughter of a former prime minister, was named trade and economy minister, probably the most prominent post, and

Midori Matsushima was appointed justice minister.

"I am usually not that conscious about being a woman politician," Matsushima, a lawmaker for more than decade, told reporters.

But Matsushima stressed that she wanted to start a debate about Japan's relatively light penalties for sexual assaults, as well as continue to push for the protection of crime victims' human rights.

Abe risked offending the long line of powerful men in his ruling party, who had been waiting to get their promotions. While some experts say upsetting male colleagues could weaken Abe's grip on power, others said he may strengthen his position by inspiring women, who are very active in party politics in Japan at the voter level, even if not in senior positions. Several top ministers were retained, such as Fumio Kishida as foreign minister and Taro Aso as finance minister, both men. □

Fukushima workers may have received garbled orders

MARTIN FACKLER

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TOKYO - Some 650 workers who fled the stricken Fukushima Daiichi plant without permission at the darkest moment of the 2011 nuclear accident may have left because they thought they had been ordered to evacuate, not because they were knowingly violating orders, according to new details of the episode reported in recent days by Japanese news media.

The Kyodo news agency and two newspapers, the Mainichi Shimbun and the Yomiuri Shimbun, carried new excerpts from the testimony of Masao Yoshida, who was the plant manager during the March

2011 accident. Some of his testimony, which was recorded by government investigators during hours of interviews before Yoshida's death last year, was first disclosed in May by another major Japanese newspaper, the Asahi Shimbun.

Yoshida, who stayed at the Fukushima plant with 68 employees as it seemed to teeter on the brink of catastrophe after being crippled by a huge earthquake and tsunami, came to be viewed in Japan as a hero for preventing the disaster from growing even worse. His 400-page account of the accident, which had been kept secret by the government, is now scheduled to be made public as

early as this month, following pressure from shareholders of the plant's operator, the Tokyo Electric Power Co., and from other news agencies after the Asahi scoop.

Like the Asahi report, the accounts published over the last week, which could not be independently verified, appeared to come from copies of Yoshida's testimony that were leaked to Japanese media.

While the new reports carry much of the same information as the earlier Asahi account, they differ on the key point of whether the majority of the plant's workers who fled on March 15 were consciously violating Yoshida's order for them to stay

where they were. The Asahi report, which was cited in a New York Times article, quoted Yoshida as saying he had never given the order to withdraw, indicating that the evacuation went against his instructions.

However, additional excerpts from Yoshida's testimony cited in the new reports suggest that what may have happened was a communication failure, not a willful violation of orders by the employees.

"It was like the telephone game," in which a message gets distorted as it is whispered from person to person, Yoshida is quoted as saying in the new reports. "I said, 'If we go, should it be to 2F?' while the people

who heard me gave the instruction to the drivers to go to Fukushima Daini."

Yoshida was referring to the drivers of buses that were being brought to the damaged plant for a possible evacuation. Those buses helped carry the fleeing workers to the unharmed Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, also known as 2F, despite the fact that the evacuation order was never given. The new excerpts also reveal that Yoshida feared the accident could grow into a broader disaster that might have threatened all of eastern Japan, a region that is usually taken as including Tokyo, about 150 miles south of the destroyed plant. □

Venezuela:

Maduro plays to factions with shakeup

**HANNAH DREIER
FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela
(AP)** — The political factions holding up President Nicolas Maduro appear to each have won a slice of power with a Cabinet shuffle that breaks up the control one man held over Venezuela's oil and economy.

After months of foreshadowing a big shake-up, Maduro announced late Tuesday that he was sidelining his most powerful minister, Rafael Ramirez, dividing his authority among appointees favored by the different groups that jockey for power within his administration.

Ramirez, a fixture of the socialist South American country's 15-year socialist revolution, leaves his multiple roles of top economic adviser, oil minister, and president of the state-run oil giant PDVSA.

The reshuffling solidified the power of the family of Maduro's mentor, the late President Hugo Chavez. Asdrubal Chavez, an engineer and cousin of the late president, will step in as oil minister. The populist leader's son-in-law, Jorge Arreaza, keeps his appointed role as vice president.

The military, a historical arbiter of political disputes in Venezuela, also scored a victory. Low-profile army general and current Finance Minister Rodolfo Marco Torres will take over Ramirez's job as top economic policymaker.

Even the technocrats, whom international investors are counting on to pursue more pro-business policies, came out ahead. Stanford-educated engineer Eulogio Del Pino was named head of PDVSA. Del Pino has sat on the

ed such a dramatic demotion for Ramirez, who looked stricken as the president thanked him for his past service in front of an audience of top military and civilian officials at the presidential palace. The past months have seen an increasingly public

ezuela's export earnings, Ramirez had been seen as a potential ally for investors hoping that the economic convulsions wracking Venezuela will spur a more business-friendly approach. Managing his own party has been a central task for Maduro. While Chavez



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, left, speaks with Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez in Caracas, Venezuela. Maduro has replaced Venezuela's longtime oil minister and economic czar as part of a cabinet shakeup sidelining the most-prominent voice within his administration for much-needed reforms to address the country's economic crisis.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

PDVSA executive board for more than a decade, and most recently served as vice president of exploration and production. On Wednesday, analysts hailed him as a highly competent oilman.

Ramirez, who had led PDVSA for 10 years, was designated foreign minister and given a newly created position of vice president for political sovereignty. Few Venezuelans expect-

power struggle between hardcore leftists in the Chavista movement and more pragmatic leaders like Ramirez, who backed an unpopular plan to raise gas prices — currently the world's cheapest — and unify three official exchange rates that have been fueling the bolivar's freefall in the black market. With his responsibility for the world's largest oil reserves and 95 percent of Ven-

held together a wide-ranging coalition by force of character and charisma, his less popular successor has struggled to project the same kind of leadership. With the Cabinet changes, Maduro sought to demonstrate control while also accommodating the competing actors that make up his administration, said Dimitris Pantoulas, a political and business consultant based in Caracas. □

DR president vetoes a new national park

**EZEQUIEL LOPEZ
Associated Press
SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)** — A proposal to create a new national park that would have blocked the expansion of a nickel mine in the forested mountains of the central Dominican Republic was vetoed Tuesday by President Danilo Medina. Medina sent the measure back to the Senate with a letter saying he had "serious doubts," about the effects of the proposed creation of the Loma Miranda National Park in an area where a multinational company was seeking to expand its mining operations.

The president also said there had not been any studies that concluded it was environmentally necessary to protect the area, covering about 16 square miles north of the capital with a national park designation. Medina said that his veto was not approval for mining at Loma Miranda and that the project would only be authorized "after they have completed all the required environmental impact studies." Both the Senate and Chamber of Deputies passed the bill last month by wide margins amid a combination of environmental concerns and fears that multinational mining companies may be benefiting more than the public from the country's natural resources.

A unit of Glencore Xstrata Plc, a commodities and mining group with its headquarters in Switzerland, owns the Falcondo nickel mine that has been in operation since 1971. The company has said it would close the mine in about four years if it is not able to expand to about 5 square miles in the Loma Miranda area. Environmental groups and academics had warned that it is an environmentally sensitive area, threatening an important network of rivers and streams and biodiversity in the lushly forested area. □

Colombia court Oks bullfights in Bogota ring

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A Colombian high court says bullfights can return to Bogota's historic ring, more than two months after they were suspended by the capital city's mayor.

The Constitutional Court's press office says the high court agreed with the Corporacion Taurina de Bogota, which organizes the bullfights. The company says it has the right to hold bullfights there at least through the end of its



A Colombian bullfighter reads a bullfighting magazine as another talks on a mobile phone as they stage a hunger strike under a tent outside La Santa Maria bullring in Bogota, Colombia. (AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

contract in March 2015. There was no immediate response by Mayor Gustavo Petro.

Fourteen apprentice bullfighters have been on hunger strike to protest moves to eliminate the blood sport in Bogota, but they say they won't end their protest until they know what Petro is going to do. Bullfighting has been practiced in Colombia since the 1800s, with about 100 bullfights held here each year. □



Loyal Visitors from Venezuela Honored at the Playa Linda



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Playa Linda Beach Resort, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to



guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were all from the same family from Caracas, Venezuela, and this year they have come to Aruba with a total of 55 family members! Those who were honored this year include Mr. Andres and Mrs. Liliana Pilo, Mr. Raul and Mrs. Veronica Pilo, Mrs. Gladys Mathison

and Mrs. Sonia Mathison. The honorees are loyal members of the Playa Linda Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people,

the weather, beaches, and restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Playa Linda is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by

Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Yvette Tromp representing the Playa Linda Beach Resort. □



BBQ and Beach Tennis...It's a Perfect Match!



EAGLE BEACH - Aruba's new favorite pastime is beach tennis. The sport is growing by leaps and bounds in Aruba, with several hundred players hitting the sand weekly for leagues, tournaments, and just for fun. This past Saturday evening, a group of dedicated players came to The Hollywood Smokehouse to refuel after a day of tournament matches. The Hollywood Smokehouse, now located at the Alhambra Casino & Shops in Eagle Beach, is Aruba's only authentic smokehouse, featuring hickory smoked pulled pork, beef brisket, ribs, burgers, and more, served with homemade sauces and side dishes. Local favorites at

Hollywood include the smoked grouper tacos and the Korean lettuce wraps (butter lettuce cups served with Asian slaw, Korean BBQ sauce, and a choice of fish, pulled pork, or chicken breast). The smokehouse's blackberry bourbon lemonade is also a big hit and the perfect

way to wash down all that southern smoked barbecue goodness! The Hollywood Smokehouse is open weekdays from 5pm to 10pm, weekends from noon to 10pm (closed Tuesdays). For more information check them out on facebook or call 280-9989. ☐



Suresh Sookoo to retire as CEO, Caribbean Banking, RBC; Kirk Dudtschak named Head, Caribbean Banking

PORT-OF-SPAIN/Trinidad and Tobago - RBC today announced that Suresh B. Sookoo, CEO, RBC Caribbean Banking, has decided to retire, effective October 31, 2014.

Sookoo, a career banker for more than 35 years, has led RBC's Caribbean operations since 2008, when RBC acquired the RBT Group, creating one of the most expansive banking operations in the Caribbean, from The Bahamas in the North to Suriname in the South. Sookoo will continue to sit on the Board of RBC Financial (Caribbean) Limited, the holding company for RBC's Caribbean business, and has agreed to remain available as an advisor to its leadership team.

With Sookoo's retirement, Kirk Dudtschak, currently President, Caribbean Banking will assume the role of Executive Vice-President and Head, Caribbean Banking.

Dudtschak joined RBC in 1986 and has held a variety of senior and executive roles since then. As President, Caribbean Banking, he has worked alongside Sookoo over the last 18 months to strengthen the performance of the business and position it for sustainable growth. Previously, Dudtschak held a variety of senior positions within RBC's branch network and head office, with experience in strategy, human resources, sales, operations and risk management. In his new role, he will be responsible



for driving the overall strategic direction and business performance of Caribbean Banking, while also ensuring close and effective collaboration between the Caribbean business and the rest of RBC.

"Suresh is a trusted leader who dedicated his career to serving our clients, developing our employees and supporting our communities," said Jennifer Tory, Head of Personal & Commercial Banking, RBC. "He has also contributed greatly to the growth and development of the banking sector across the region, especially in Trinidad and Tobago. We will miss his experience and expertise, and wish him all the best in his retirement."

Tory added: "Kirk is a proven, respected and

experienced executive with a deep knowledge of our business. He understands the Caribbean markets and the needs of our clients in the region, and I am confident that he will drive our business towards sustainable, long-term success."

Sookoo and Dudtschak will continue to work together in the coming weeks to ensure a smooth leadership transition.

"As I prepare to retire, I'm confident we have turned a corner in our company," said Sookoo. "We now have strong regional and local leadership in place across all of our markets to take this business forward, supported by RBC's strength and risk management discipline. I have had a tremendous experience with RBC and have worked with some of the best talent in the industry. I look forward to continuing to contribute to the success of the Caribbean in other capacities."

Dudtschak said: "This is a great privilege and honour for me. We have a great and diverse leadership team in place supported by a dedicated, loyal and committed workforce who strives to deliver on our clients' expectations every day." "Suresh has been a wonderful colleague," he continued, "and I want to thank him for all the work he's done to get us to where we are, and wish him all the best in the next phase of his journey." □

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The Francis family from New Jersey spotted at Salt & Pepper!

PALM BEACH - The Francis family, consisting of father Robert, mom Wendy and son Robert Jr. were spotted at Salt & Pepper Restaurant in the Arawak Garden this week. Something to put in the newspaper, you might ask?

Yes, because these second-time visitors took the time to tell us why they are having the time of their lives on the island. "We love the trade wind, the beaches, the people and, of course, Salt & Pepper Restaurant," they say. We love to hear things like that, so we made them newsworthy.

At Salt & Pepper, Robert, Wendy and Robert Jr. loved the breakfast as well as the chicken wrap and the grouper. They found the restaurant on the cozy plaza across from the Occidental Resort by just walking past.

This family vacation will go into the books as a super memory. □





Serena Williams, of the United States, waves to the crowd after defeating Flavia Pennetta, of Italy, 6-3, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis tournament Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014, in New York. Associated Press

Serena beats Pennetta, into U.S. Open semis

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

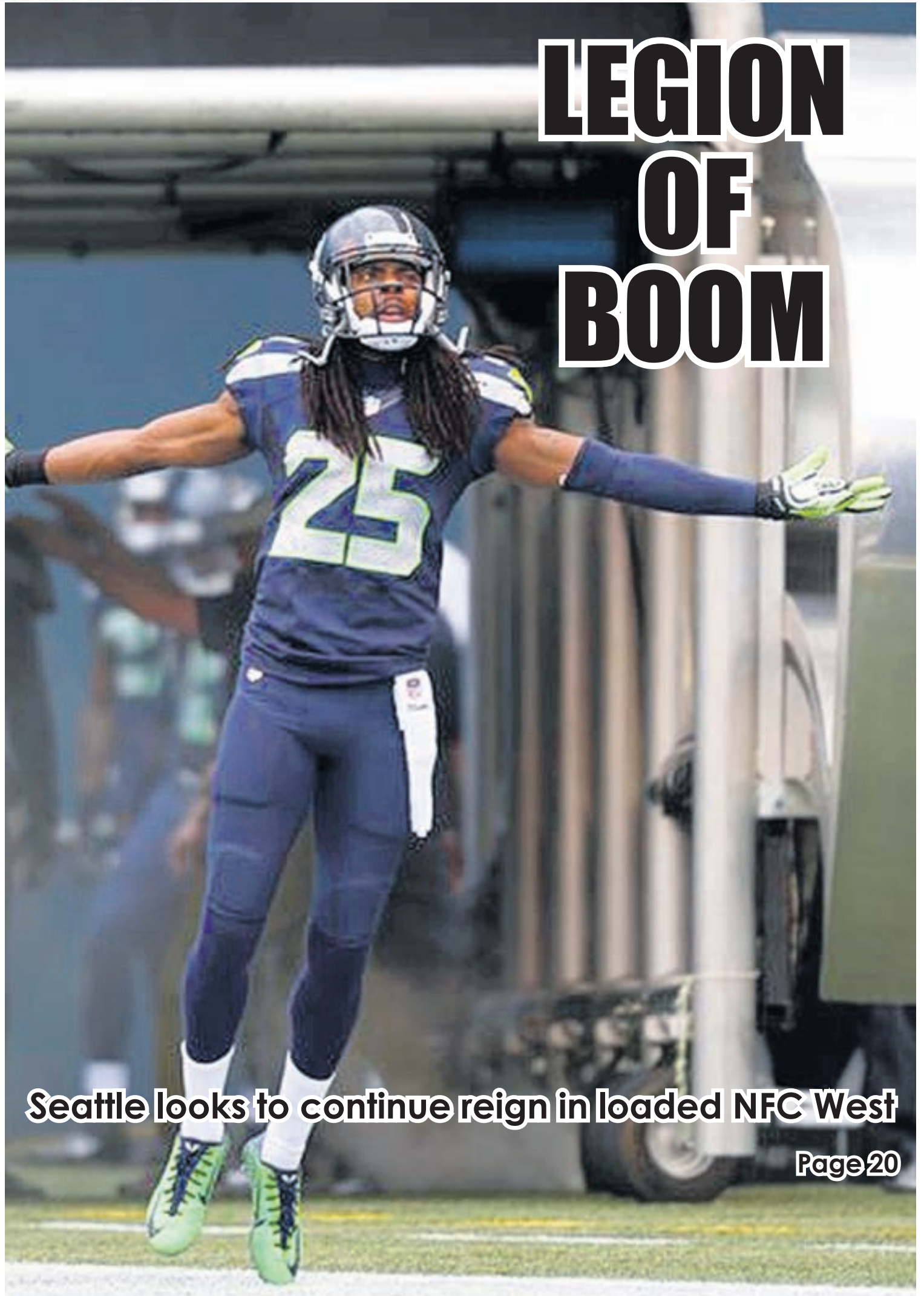
NEW YORK (AP) — After a bad-as-can-be start, dropping the first three games, Serena Williams quickly turned things around and stretched her U.S. Open winning streak to 19 matches to get back to the semi-finals. Considered the best server in women's tennis, the No. 1-seeded Williams was broken twice in a row at the outset Wednesday night, before taking complete control for a 6-3, 6-2 victory over 11th-seeded Flavia Pennetta of Italy.

"I don't feel like I was doing too much wrong," said Williams, a five-time champion at Flushing Meadows. "So I said, 'If she keeps it up, she absolutely deserves the win.' And I just tried to do a little better."

Simple as that, huh?

Williams is bidding to become the first woman with three consecutive U.S. Open titles since Chris Evert took four in a row from 1975-78. The 32-year-old American also is trying to pull even with Evert and Martina Navratilova at 18 Grand Slam singles trophies.

Continued on Page 18



LEGION OF BOOM

Seattle looks to continue reign in loaded NFC West

Page 20

In this Aug. 15, 2014, file photo, Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman runs out of the tunnel before a preseason NFL football game against the San Diego Chargers in Seattle.

Associated Press

U.S. Open

Continued from Page 17

Williams had not yet reached a major semifinal in 2014, bowing out in the fourth round at the Australian Open, the second at the French Open, and the third at Wimbledon. The last time she didn't reach at least one Grand Slam title match in a season was 2006, when she entered only two of the sport's top tournaments.

"Well, honestly, I've had a tough year in the majors and I've (lost to) some great players that weren't in the top 10," Williams said. "So you can never underestimate anyone."

On Friday, Williams will meet 17th-seeded Ekaterina Makarova, who defeated 2012 and 2013 runner-up Victoria Azarenka 6-4, 6-2. The other women's semifinal will be No. 10 Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark against unseeded Peng Shuai of China.

One of these is not like the others: Williams is the only member of that quartet with a Grand Slam title. Wozniacki, the runner-up at the 2009 U.S. Open, is the only other woman left who's even participated in a major semifinal.

Earlier Wednesday, Kei Nishikori became the first



Kei Nishikori, of Japan, returns a shot against Stan Wawrinka, of Switzerland, during the quarterfinals of the 2014 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

man from Japan to reach the U.S. Open semifinals in 96 years, outlasting third-seeded Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7), 6-7 (5), 6-4.

That match went 4 hours, 15 minutes, and the 10th-seeded Nishikori managed to shake off any lingering

exhaustion from his previous victory, which lasted 4:19 and ended at 2:26 a.m. Tuesday, equaling the latest finish in tournament history.

Nishikori began slowly against the Australian Open champion, but eventually got his bearings

and used crisp returns and strong net play to edge ahead.

"Actually, I started a little bit tight, but my body was OK," Nishikori said in an on-court interview. "I don't know how I finished ... but I'm very happy."

On Williams' second serve of her quarterfinal, she was called for a foot fault — an unpleasant reminder of her meltdown after that very same ruling in the closing moments of a loss to Kim Clijsters in the 2009 U.S. Open semifinals.

This time, Williams was unfazed right afterward and wound up winning the point. But miscues by Williams led to an opening break, and after about 10 minutes of play, Pennetta — a semifinalist in New York last year, but never a major finalist — was ahead 3-0.

Williams began taking the ball inside the baseline as much as possible and finding the mark with her serves, putting more pressure on Pennetta while reeling off six straight games to take the first set.

Pennetta, who is into the doubles semifinals with partner Martina Hingis, might have been forgiven for giving up at that point. But she made things competitive again — at least briefly.

Four aces in one game al-

lowed her to lead 2-1 in the second set. That was pretty much that. Williams broke at love to go up 3-2, raising her left fist overhead to celebrate one particularly impressive shot, in which she raced back to the baseline to retrieve a lob, spun and smacked a forehand winner.

Williams has not had a particularly difficult path so far through an upset-filled women's field.

She hasn't dropped a set, but she also has not had to face No. 3 Petra Kvitova, No. 7 Eugenie Bouchard, No. 8 Ana Ivanovic, No. 16 Azarenka or No. 24 Sam Stosur — the last player to beat Williams at the U.S. Open, in the 2011 final.

All were on Williams' half of the draw, and all lost to others.

Azarenka said she wasn't able to practice Tuesday because of food poisoning. But she did not want to talk about how that might have affected her against Makarova.

"You can ask me 20 times the same question. I'm not going to make any excuses today," Azarenka said, shaking her head. "As I said, I did the best I could today. I want to give full credit to my opponent. She deserves to win. She played much better than me today. That's it." □

Aru of Italy wins 11th stage of Spanish Vuelta

SANTUARIO DE SAN MIGUEL DE ARALAR, Spain (AP) — Fabio Aru of Italy won the 11th stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Wednesday while Alberto Contador hung on to the overall race leader's red jersey.

Nairo Quintana, one of the race favorites, had to withdraw with a broken shoulder blade after crashing just 20 kilometers (12 miles) into the stage, his second fall in two days.

Aru, a 24-year-old Astana Pro rider, climbed to the finish line at the summit of the Santuario de San Miguel de Aralar peak after a 153-kilometer (95-mile) ride from Pamplona in 3 hours, 41 minutes, 3 seconds.

"This is incredible," Aru said. "I'm really happy as I never thought I'd be able to win here. I prepared really well after the Giro to be here." Quintana's fall marred celebrations at the finish line, and Contador said the Colombian's

accident and departure from the race was a blow for fans hoping to see him fight for the title.

"It's a real shame for the race," Contador said. "The effort one has to make to prepare for a race like the Vuelta is so great that it's awful to be so badly affected by such falls."

Alejandro Valverde of Spain crossed the finish line six seconds behind Aru, followed by fellow Spaniard Joaquin Rodriguez on the same time.

"The final ascent was really hard," Valverde said. "The climb was taken at a very fast pace and Aru deserves his win, but I'm happy to have come second."

"It's a bit bittersweet because of Nairo's fall," said Valverde.

Contador leads Valverde by 20 seconds overall. Valverde clawed back seven seconds from Contador during the stage.

Rigoberto Uran of Colombia is third overall, 1 minute, 8 seconds



Fabio Aru of Italy celebrates after winning the 11th stage of the Spanish Vuelta cycling race, a 153.4 kilometer (95 mile) leg between Pamplona and Santuario de Aralar, Spain, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014.

Associated Press

behind, with Christopher Froome of Britain still in touch 1:21 back. Thursday's 12th stage is a largely flat 166-kilometer (103-mile) ride

starting and ending in Logrono. The 21-stage event ends in Santiago de Compostela on Sept. 14. □

U.S. beats Dominicans 106-71 at basketball worlds

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

BILBAO, Spain (AP) — Kenneth Faried kept up his sharp shooting with 16 points and the U.S. national team rolled to a 4-0 start with a 106-71 victory over the Dominican Republic on Wednesday night.

The Americans surpassed 100 points for the second time in the tournament — and they were “held” to 98 points in their other two games.

They led by only three points after one quarter but had no trouble extending that as the game went on, as the Dominicans’ willingness to push the pace simply played into the Americans’ hands.

Faried made 8 of 11 shots, a 73-percent clip that actually lowered his percentage for the tournament after the Denver forward came into the game hitting 81 percent.

The Americans will fin-

ish Group C play Thursday against Ukraine before playing their round of 16 game Saturday night against the fourth-place team from Group D, which is still to be determined.

The Dominican Republic (2-2) will face Turkey on Thursday, still in position to advance.

The Dominicans played without Houston Rockets forward Francisco Garcia, who entered the day’s play tied for fourth in the tournament with 21 points per game. He appeared to turn an ankle late in the Dominicans’ victory over Finland on Tuesday, and though he finished the game, was walking gingerly Wednesday as he went to the bench after his teammates had come out to warm up.

The Americans ended up winning nearly as easily as their 105-62 exhibition victory on Aug. 20 in New York, though the Domini-



United States teammates celebrate after winning the Group C Basketball World Cup match 106-71 against Dominican Republic, in Bilbao northern Spain, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014. The 2014 Basketball World Cup competition take place in various cities in Spain from Aug. 30 to Sept. 14.

Associated Press

cans hung with them a little longer than that night. The U.S. lead was just 25-22 as the Dominicans attacked fearlessly but didn’t have any answer for the Americans’ bigs. Faried had three straight baskets, a couple of them powerful

dunks, and Anthony Davis knocked down a jumper to turn a seven-point lead into a 44-29 cushion.

Gay got the final four points of the half, making a pair of free throws after he was clobbered intentionally on a breakaway by Edward

Santana, then banking in a jumper that make it 56-41.

A 25-point third quarter was followed by 25 more in the fourth, capped by a series of dunks from end-of-the-bench players Andre Drummond and Mason Plumlee. □

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Seahawks host Packers to raise curtain on 2014

TIM BOOTH

AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — At some point they will take a moment to acknowledge the celebration taking place around them. Pete Carroll and his team will step back from an offseason focused on forgetting what happened in 2013 and for a brief second appreciate the festivities commemorating Seattle's first Super Bowl title.

Once the Super Bowl banner is unveiled, it will be time to embark on the quest to become the first team in a decade to repeat.

"There's a challenge every game, particularly opening game. After coming off the offseason and all that, there's always a big challenge," Carroll said.

Seattle will raise the curtain on the 2014 NFL season Thursday night hosting fellow NFC contender Green Bay. It's the first regular-season meeting between the teams since the "Fail Mary" two years ago when Seattle won on a disputed touchdown on the final play of a game that also helped bring an end to the use of replacement officials.

But history was not the focus for Seattle this entire offseason, whether it was a controversial win two seasons ago, or its 43-8 romp over Denver in the Super Bowl.

"I think the thing that really

separates us is we always stay true to who we are," Seattle safety Earl Thomas said. "We're going to recapture what we did last year and add a few more things to it."

Green Bay knows about winning a title and the pitfalls of trying to repeat. Aaron Rodgers got his championship four sea-

sons ago and followed up by going 15-1 in the 2011 regular season before being bounced in the divisional round of the playoffs by the New York Giants.

Packers can dethrone Seattle in the NFC. That test begins Thursday. "This is a game that we've been in before after we won the Super Bowl. We know the excitement that surrounds it," Rodgers said. "It's a highly rated game. We're playing at a tough environment with the Super Bowl champions, so it's

season. Wilson led the Seahawks to scores on 11 of 13 preseason possessions, including nine touchdowns. Rodgers, who missed seven games last season with a collarbone injury, wasn't quite as dynamic in the preseason but the Packers' offense looked potent in his limited playing time.

of the offensive line and hear Rodgers' adjustments in the loudest stadium in the NFL.

"If I'm a rookie and I've got Brandon Mebane my first game — he's one of the best nose tackles in the league," Seattle linebacker Bruce Irvin said. "So it's going to be big for him. I'm going to pray for him. It's going to be a long night, man."

Britt won the starting job during training camp. And his NFL debut means having to slow down the pass rush of Clay Matthews and Peppers trying to create havoc off the edges.

SPEED AND MORE SPEED: The Packers and Seahawks want their offenses to use speed, but in different ways. The Packers want to push the tempo, going no-huddle and trying to keep opponents from getting their defenses set. Seattle will rely more on speed from the skill positions this season, taking advantage of a healthy Percy Harvin and rookie Paul Richardson.

EIGHT IS ENOUGH: Lost in the chaos of the final play two years ago was a miserable first half for Rodgers during which he was sacked eight times. Green Bay could not slow the pass rush of Irvin and Chris Clemons. The Packers went to a jumbo blocking unit in the second half and were finally able to slow Seattle's rush. □



In this Aug. 22, 2014, photo, Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers approaches the line of scrimmage during the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the Oakland Raiders in Green Bay, Wis. Associated Press

sons ago and followed up by going 15-1 in the 2011 regular season before being bounced in the divisional round of the playoffs by the New York Giants. With the addition of Julius Peppers to the defense, a revamped secondary and Year 2 of Eddie Lacy creating a balanced offense, many pundits believe the

going to be a tough test for us."

Here are things to watch for as the season begins: **QUALITY QBs:** Not a bad matchup of quarterbacks to begin the season with Rodgers and Seattle QB Russell Wilson taking center stage. Both led their respective offenses with precision during the pre-

WELCOME AND GOOD LUCK: Green Bay rookie center Corey Linsley and Seattle rookie right tackle Justin Britt get difficult introductions to the NFL. Linsley was thrown into a starting role when J.C. Tretter went down with a knee injury during training camp. His challenge will be trying to communicate with the rest



In this Aug. 23, 2014, file photo, Denver Broncos wide receiver Wes Welker (83) stretches prior to an NFL preseason football game against the Houston Texans in Denver.

ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colorado (AP) — The Denver Bron-

cos will be without Wes Welker for the first four games of the season after the NFL said the receiver

Broncos' Welker suspended for THE first 4 games

violated the league's performance-enhancing drug policy.

Normally, the league announces such violations on Monday. News of Welker's ban didn't come down until late Tuesday, after the league offices closed and the Broncos had already finished drawing up blueprints for their opener against Indianapolis, undoubtedly with Welker playing a prominent role.

The violation had to do

with amphetamines, ESPN said.

Welker told the Denver Post in an email he was "as shocked as everyone at today's news." He noted he's meticulous about what he puts in his body. The 11th-year pro who's been the NFL's top slot receiver over the last decade added he never concerned himself with the league's drug rules but now realizes those policies "are clearly flawed."

While it takes multiple violations of the league's substance-abuse policies to trigger a suspension, a four-game ban is issued for a single violation of the NFL's ban on performance-enhancing substances.

Welker's suspension will cost him roughly \$706,000 in base salary.

He had only just returned to practice following a concussion in a preseason game on Aug. 23, his third since November. □

NL Capsules

Kershaw first to 17 wins, ERA now 1.70

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clayton Kershaw pitched eight strong innings for his major league-leading 17th win and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Washington Nationals 4-1 Tuesday night. Kershaw (17-3) gave up one run and three hits, walked two and struck out eight to win his third straight start. He also lowered his baseball-best ERA to 1.70. Doug Fister (12-6) lost his third consecutive start. He went five-plus innings, giving up 10 hits and four runs. Bryce Harper homered in the seventh for the Nationals' only run of the game. It was the first homer by a lefty against Kershaw this season.

With the win, the Dodgers (78-61) moved one game behind the Nationals (78-59) for the National League's best record.

Kenley Jansen pitched a hitless inning for his 39th save.

CARDINALS 6, PIRATES 4

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Adam Wainwright earned his 16th win and matched his career best with three RBIs, carrying the Cardinals to the victory.

The bottom of the order

was the difference in the fourth win in a row for the NL Central leaders. Eighth-place hitter Peter Bourjos singled twice and drove in a run, and seventh-place hitter Daniel Descalso walked twice and scored twice.

Wainwright (16-9) prevailed despite allowing three home runs to match his career worst. He left after Starling Marte's two-run shot shaved the lead to 5-4 with none out in the seventh.

Pat Neshek pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Russell Martin and Jordy Mercer also homered for the Pirates, who have lost three in a row. Jeff Locke (6-4) got the loss.

GIANTS 12, ROCKIES 7

DENVER (AP) — Buster Posey homered, doubled twice and drove in four runs, rallying San Francisco to the road win.

Posey's solo homer in the sixth keyed a three-run burst as the Giants erased a 7-1 deficit to remain on the heels of the Dodgers in the NL West. He hit a two-run double in a six-run seventh.

George Kontos (4-0) kept



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw throws to the plate during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

the Giants in striking distance with 1 2-3 scoreless innings until the bats could heat up.

Josh Rutledge had a two-run triple in the third and DJ LeMahieu followed a two-run homer for the Rockies, who have the worst record in the National League. Reliever Matt Belisle (4-7) got the loss.

PHILLIES 4, BRAVES 0

ATLANTA (AP) — Kyle Kendrick allowed three hits in seven innings, Carlos Ruiz homered and drove in two runs, and the Phillies shut out the struggling Braves. One day after Cole Hamels and three relievers threw the first combined no-hitter in Phillies history, Kendrick (8-11) and relievers Ken Giles and Antonio Bastardo were dominant in the three-hit shutout.

The Braves, who began the night 1 1/2 games behind the NL wild-card leaders, have lost three of four. With two straight shutout losses, they haven't scored in 24 consecutive innings.

Jason Heyward had two doubles. Atlanta's only other hit was a third-inning single by Andrelton Simmons. Braves left-hander Mike Minor (6-9) allowed three runs in 7 1-3 innings.

Sam's 2nd chance comes on Cowboys' practice squad

SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Michael Sam's second chance will be with the Dallas Cowboys.

Coach Jason Garrett said Wednesday that the league's first openly gay player will be added to the practice roster.

"We just want to give him a chance to come in and help our football team," Garrett said. "That's where our attention is (football). What people say outside the organization is up to them."

The Cowboys, who are seeking help with their pass rush because of injuries and the offseason release of franchise sacks leader

DeMarcus Ware, added Sam four days after he was released by St. Louis when teams had to cut rosters to 53 players.

Sam isn't likely to be on the active roster for Sunday's opener against San Francisco.

Any team can sign Sam off the Cowboys' practice squad, but would have to put him on the 53-man roster for a minimum of four weeks.

Being on the Dallas roster means Sam is returning to his home state. He was a lightly regarded recruit out of Hitchcock, Texas, a town of about 7,000 along the Gulf Coast about 40 miles southeast of Houston. His first two years at Missouri,

Sam backed up Aldon Smith and Jacquies Smith, both of whom are in the NFL.

The Cowboys didn't have Sam on their draft board, with owner Jerry Jones saying his size and skill set had him caught between defensive end and outside linebacker. Dallas passed on him with three of five seventh-round picks before the Rams got him at No. 249 out of 256 selections.

But Dallas heads into the opener with serious questions about its defensive line after giving up the most yards in the NFL last year — and third-most in league history.

Defensive end George Selvie, who might miss the



Dallas Cowboys practice squad player defensive end Michael Sam (46) runs a drill during team practice Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014, in Irving, Texas.

Associated Press

opener with a shoulder injury, is the only Dallas lineman who had more than two sacks last year. Tackle Terrell McClain, one of the key free agent signings, is likely out with a sprained ankle. The other

major free agent pick-up, tackle Henry Melton, missed all the preseason games with a groin injury. He hasn't played since tearing a knee ligament with Chicago in Week 3 last year.

AL Capsules

J.D. Martinez hits 3-run homer, Tigers win 4-2

TIGERS 4, INDIANS 2

CLEVELAND (AP) — J.D. Martinez hit a three-run homer off closer Cody Allen in the ninth inning, lifting Detroit to the win.

Martinez's one-out shot over the center-field wall bailed out the Tigers, who had been unable to get a clutch hit for eight innings. But in the ninth, Torii Hunter drew a leadoff walk from Allen (5-4), Miguel Cabrera singled, and after Victor Martinez flied out, J.D. Martinez connected for his 19th homer.

Phil Coke (3-2) pitched 1 1-3 innings and Joe Nathan worked the ninth for his 29th save.

Detroit's comeback kept the Tigers on the heels of first-place Kansas City in the AL Central.

Carlos Santana hit a two-run homer for Cleveland, which has dropped the first two in this critical four-game series.

MARINERS 6, ATHLETICS 5
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — James Paxton pitched shutout ball into the eighth inning and Seattle held off a late rally by Oakland, handing the Athletics their fifth loss in six games. Paxton (5-1) gave up three



Detroit Tigers' J.D. Martinez hits a three-run home run off Cleveland Indians relief pitcher Cody Allen in the ninth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014, in Cleveland. Steven Moya and Torii Hunter scored on the play. The Tigers defeated the Indians 4-2.

Associated Press

hits through the seventh. Ahead 6-0, he got chased in Oakland's three-run eighth, and the A's nearly got even in a harried ninth. Seattle closer Fernando Rodney took over with a

6-3 lead and retired the first two batters. He then gave up consecutive doubles to Derek Norris and pinch-hitters Brandon Moss and Sam Fuld before retiring Josh Reddick on a grounder for

his 40th save.

The A's remained 4 1/2 games back of the first-place Angels, who lost at Houston.

Seattle is third in the AL wild-card standings.

Oakland's Sonny Gray (13-8) gave up six runs in five innings.

ROYALS 2, RANGERS 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Salvador Perez hit a scorching liner off the glove of third baseman Adrian Beltré for a single, allowing Jarrod Dyson to score the go-ahead run in the eighth inning for Kansas City.

Jason Frasier (4-1) left runners on the corners in the eighth against his former team, and Aaron Crow worked around a two-out single in the ninth for his third save of the season.

All-Star closer Greg Holland was unavailable after pitching three consecutive days.

The Rangers' Derek Holland and counterpart Jeremy Guthrie pitched to a stalemate through seven innings before the Royals broke through against Michael Kirkman (0-1) in the eighth. The Royals' Nori Aoki and the Rangers' Daniel Robertson drove in the game's

other runs.

RED SOX 9, YANKEES 4

NEW YORK (AP) — Xander Bogaerts homered among his four hits and fellow rookie Mookie Betts also went deep during a big night at the plate, powering Boston to the win.

Daniel Nava hit a three-run shot to back Joe Kelly's first win with Boston. Betts had three hits and slumping Mike Napoli hit two sacrifice flies for the last-place Red Sox, who have won eight of their last 11 road games.

A furious Brett Gardner got ejected on a frustrating — and sometimes embarrassing — night for the Yankees, who began the day four games out of a playoff spot before losing their fifth in seven games following a five-game winning streak. Rookie right-hander Shane Greene (4-2) was hit hard and chased in the third inning.

Kelly (1-1) allowed three runs in 6 2-3 innings.

ORIOLES 5, REDS 4

BALTIMORE (AP) — Bud Norris pitched six shutout innings, Nelson Cruz notched his career-high 91st RBI during a four-run first, and the Orioles beat the Reds.



Czech Republic's Michal Kadlec, left, challenges Jozy Altidore of U.S., right, during their friendly soccer match in Prague, Czech Republic, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014.

Associated Press.

The Associated Press

Starting his second World Cup cycle as U.S. coach, Jurgen Klinsmann set a bold goal for the Americans: reach the final four of the 2018 tournament in Russia.

The U.S. opened four years of preparation by beating the Czech Republic for the first time in four meetings, using a youthful roster to win 1-0 in an exhibition Wednesday night on Alejandro Bedoya's 39th-min-

U.S. starts 2018 preparation with 1-0 win at Czechs

ute goal in Prague.

"It just shows that the States has a deeper pool," Bedoya said. "There's a bunch of great, young, talented players coming through."

After finishing second in a tough World Cup group that included eventual champion Germany, Portugal and Ghana, the Americans were eliminated with a 2-1 overtime loss to Belgium in the round of 16 on July 1.

While it marked the Americans' first consecutive appearances in the knockout rounds, Klinsmann wasn't satisfied.

"Once you get out of the

most difficult group in the World Cup, you should go further than just (the) round of 16," the former German star player and coach told NBC Sports before Wednesday's game.

"This is our goal going towards Russia, not to stop at the round of 16, maybe not to stop at the quarterfinal, to say clearly, listen: We have four years to prepare this cycle.

Our goal is going into a semifinal in a World Cup. And that means a lot of work, a lot of competition, a lot of grind."

The U.S. has reached the semifinals just once, at the first World Cup in 1930.

The furthest the Americans have advanced since then is a quarterfinal loss to Germany in 2002.

Three players made their U.S. debuts against the Czechs: 21-year-old forward Joe Gyau played the entire match, 23-year-old defender Greg Garza entered in the 63rd, and 18-year-old midfielder Emerson Hyndman came in four minutes later.

"I think we came together pretty well in this game," said Gyau, whose father, Philip, made six appearances for the U.S. national team, and whose grandfather, Joseph, played for Ghana.

Samsung kicks off battle for holiday spending

FRANK JORDANS
ANICK JESDANUN
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Samsung unveiled two smartphones and a virtual-reality headset Wednesday in a bid to draw consumer attention before its fierce rival, Apple, announces its holiday lineup next week. Samsung, whose phones have gotten progressively larger each year, has decided that bigger isn't better this time. Instead, Samsung's Galaxy Note 4 retains the 5.7-inch screen of last year's model, but adds a speedier processor, a better screen, better cameras and software to fit more people into selfies. The announcement at the IFA trade show in Berlin comes as Samsung's smartphone sales fell 4 percent in the second quarter, compared with a year ago, even though it launched the Galaxy S5 in April. According to IDC, Samsung's share of the global smartphone market fell 7 percentage points to 25 percent.

"Samsung needs the Galaxy Note 4 to be a hit," said Ben Wood, chief of research at CCS Insight. "It has to make up some

of the ground it lost as a result of the relatively poor reception to the all-plastic Galaxy S5."

Wood said the new metal-based design of the Note 4 could offer the kind of premium look and feel that Samsung needs to compete with Apple's much-anticipated iPhone 6.

Apple's iPhone 6 is widely expected to have a 4.7-inch screen, up from the current 4 inches, to make it more competitive with larger smartphones made by Samsung and other companies. There has been speculation that Apple may also unveil an iPhone with a 5.5-inch screen, putting it in competition with the Note 4.

A computerized wristwatch might come from Apple, too, competing with Samsung's own smartwatches. Besides the Note 4, Samsung unveiled the Galaxy Note Edge with a side display for quick access to the camera controls, news and frequently used apps. Ian Fogg, an analyst who follows the mobile industry at IHS in London, said the side display distinguishes Samsung's phone from others, but Samsung will need to persuade app

developers to take advantage of it.

Samsung's earlier attempt to introduce finger levitation, allowing users to hover their fingers over a device and not touch the

be one of those features," said Martin Gicheru, managing editor of Techweez, a technology news site based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Alongside its new phones, Samsung launched an

nerships were announced Wednesday, and Samsung says more will come by the time the device goes on sale. NextVR of Laguna Beach, California, plans to offer live sports and



The curved display of a Samsung Galaxy Note edge is pictured during an 'Unpacked event' at the IFA, one of the world's largest trade fairs for consumer electronics and electrical home appliances in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014. The IFA takes place in Berlin from Sept. 5 until Sept. 10, 2014.

Associated Press

screen, didn't take off. Developers didn't build the technology into their apps. But some of those who got their hands on the Edge at the IFA show were enthusiastic.

"Users often don't know what they want until they see it, and I think this will

eye-catching virtual-reality headset called Gear VR. It uses sensors to gauge the head's position, giving people an immersive experience with concerts, aerial footage and games. But video and other content will need to be developed. Some content part-

music events through the Samsung device. NextVR already works with other virtual-reality headset makers.

The Gear VR requires a Note 4 to work, limiting its appeal for anyone who doesn't want to buy a new phone. □

Tech insiders: Firms halted spread of grisly video

LORI HINNANT
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Tech companies were better prepared to scrub the Web after a second grisly video showing the beheading of an American journalist by Islamic State militants was released, a Silicon Valley insider said Wednesday. Video showing the death of James Foley last month ricocheted through social networks in what many feared was a propaganda coup for the extremists after the original was uploaded onto YouTube. The tech official said a video on Tuesday showing another beheading — of American journalist Steven Sotloff — was first uploaded onto a different website and quickly deleted when copied onto YouTube,

slowing the spread of posts linking to it. According to the terms of service for many social media companies, the posting of threats and gratuitously violent content is cause for suspension. In addition, Facebook's policy allows people to deactivate accounts of a family member who is incapacitated.

The official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity because companies are grappling with increasing pressure to impose more censorship on the Web, would not say whether the developments came at the request of governments or ordinary users.

But after Foley's death, "platforms were better prepared for it this time around," the official said, adding that

tech companies are trying to force out the Islamic State group "platform by platform."

Accounts on YouTube, Twitter and other sites were closed within hours of the video's release.

Even on Diaspora, a decentralized social network that does not exert centralized control over content, Islamic State militants are now often greeted with banners saying they are unwelcome. But they will find newly sophisticated ways to get a message out, said Jamie Bartlett of the Demos think tank in London.

Dwayne Melancon, chief technology officer at Tripwire, a Portland, Oregon-based cybersecurity firm, said videos have often al-



This image made from video posted on the Internet by Islamic State militants and provided by the SITE Intelligence Group, a U.S. terrorism watchdog, on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014, purports to show journalist Steven Sotloff before he was beheaded. The Arabic text at the bottom of the frame translates to "Now is the time for my message."

Associated Press

ready been "harvested" by users that download them and then repost the material on other sites.

"This is the proverbial 'the cat is out of the bag' problem we see all the time on the Internet. While you may be able to deal with the original sources of content, you're almost always dealing with multiple sources - many of whom will not listen to any

request to 'scrub' the video from their sites," he said.

Facebook declined to comment on this instance.

Family Online Safety Institute CEO Stephen Balkam, who serves on Facebook's safety advisory board, said that when videos and photos are posted with the purpose of condemning violence, they are sometimes allowed to remain posted. □

KKR to sell its stake in German telecom Versatel

CHAD BRAY

© 2014 New York Times

The German Internet services provider United Internet said Wednesday that it had agreed to acquire the private-equity firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts' controlling stake in the German telecommunications company Versatel for about \$769 million.

The company said it had signed a binding agreement to acquire KKR's 74.9

percent stake in Versatel for 586 million euros in cash, giving it full control of the company.

United Internet, based in Montabaur, Germany, already owns a 25.1 percent stake in Versatel and will acquire VictorianFibre Holding, Versatel's parent company, to complete the transaction.

"The staff and management team of Versatel have done a fantastic job

over the past few years and developed the company into a profitable business," Ralph Dommermuth, United Internet's chief executive, said in a news release. "We are convinced that we can continue and accelerate this success story together."

The deal would give United Internet "access to Germany's second-largest fiber optic network," the company said. The network is

available in 226 cities in Germany, including 19 of the 25 largest ones.

The transaction would also bolster its position as the second-largest provider of digital subscriber line Internet access in Germany, Europe's largest telecommunications market. After the deal, United Internet would have 4.12 million DSL customers. Deutsche Telekom is Germany's largest provider of broadband

connections.

United Internet said it expected Versatel to post earnings of about 164 million euros on revenue of 548 million euros in fiscal year 2014.

The deal is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to close in October. United Internet said it planned to finance the purchase and repayment of Versatel's existing bank debt through new loans. □

Apple, other tech stocks drag Wall Street lower

MATTHEW CRAFT

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The relief that greeted reports of a possible cease fire in Ukraine faded on Wall Street, as a slide in Apple and other technology stocks tugged the U.S. stock market to a small loss Wednesday.

News that that Russia and Ukraine were working on a cease-fire agreement rippled through markets early, lifting stocks in Europe and pushing up oil prices. In the U.S., the stock market headed higher at the start of trading then sagged in the afternoon.

One reason was Apple, the market's top heavyweight. The tech giant's stock slumped \$4.36, or 4 percent, to \$98.94 after its rival, Samsung, introduced two Galaxy smartphones with displays aimed at quick access to frequently used applications. Analysts expect Ap-

ple to unveil iPhones with bigger screens next week. Shares in other big tech companies, including Amazon and Facebook, also fell than 1 percent or more. Of the 10 sectors in the Standard & Poor's 500 index, technology companies lost the most.

The S&P 500 slipped 1.56 point, a fraction of a percent, to end at 2,000.72.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 10.72 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,078.28. The Nasdaq composite, which is dominated by large tech companies, sank 25.62 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,572.57. Markets have barely moved this week even with news that, in other times, might cause investors to cheer.

Any good news has to be unusually good to push the S&P 500 past 2,000 and further into record territory, said Uri Landesman, president of Platinum Partners, an investment fund

in New York.

"Above 2,000, discretion is the better part of valor," Landesman said. "Most people are kind of reluctant to jump in right now." Another encouraging re-

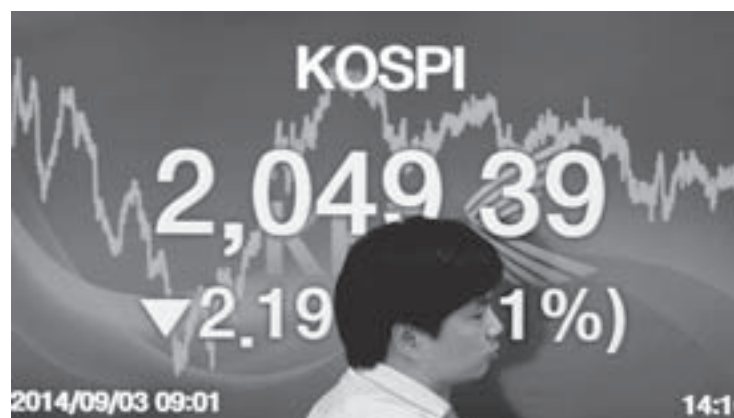
1992. That followed strong figures for manufacturing activity and construction spending on Tuesday.

"Everything right now is pointing to greater market strength," said Jona-

In Europe, markets surged following reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart had agreed to the broad terms of a peace plan to stop the fighting in eastern Ukraine. Ukraine and Western countries say Russia has armed insurgents in eastern Ukraine. Moscow denies it.

Germany's DAX climbed 1.3 percent. The CAC-40 in France picked up 1 percent. Russia's benchmark MICEX soared 3.5 percent. Craig Erlam, market analyst at Alpari, said the reports of a cease-fire were "welcomed with open arms by the markets."

The hope, he said, must be that economic sanctions on Russia would soon be lifted, which could help the European economy reclaim lost ground. "We can't forget that the effects of the crisis have been felt in many countries beyond those directly involved," said Erlam. □



A currency trader walks by a screen showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) at the foreign exchange dealing room of the Korea Exchange Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014.

(AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

port on the U.S. economy came out Wednesday. The Commerce Department said that orders for U.S. factory goods shot up 10 percent in July, the biggest one-month jump on records going back to

than Golub, chief U.S. market strategist at RBC Capital Markets. "What usually stops bull markets? It's almost always a recession." And there are no signs of a recession on the horizon, he said.

German online retailer Zalando planning IPO

CHAD BRAY

© 2014 New York Times

The German online retailer Zalando said Wednesday that it planned an initial public offering on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange this year. The planned listing would represent a milestone for the company, one of Europe's most prominent technology startups.

Zalando - which was founded in 2008 and is based in Berlin - sells shoes, clothing and accessories online. It

has rapidly expanded from a website focused on the German market to operating online stores in 15 European countries.

Zalando said it expected to list about 10 percent of its capital in the offering and that all of its existing shareholders would continue investing in the company. The company's five largest shareholders are the Swedish investment firm Kinnevik, Global Founders Capital, the Danish businessman Anders

Holch Povlsen, DST Europe and Holtzbrinck Ventures. They are not expected to sell shares in the offering.

"Listing our shares on the stock market is the logical next step in Zalando's evolution as it, in combination with raising additional capital, provides us with more flexibility to pursue our long-term growth ambitions, independent of market conditions and economic cycles," Rubin Ritter, a member of Zalando's management board,

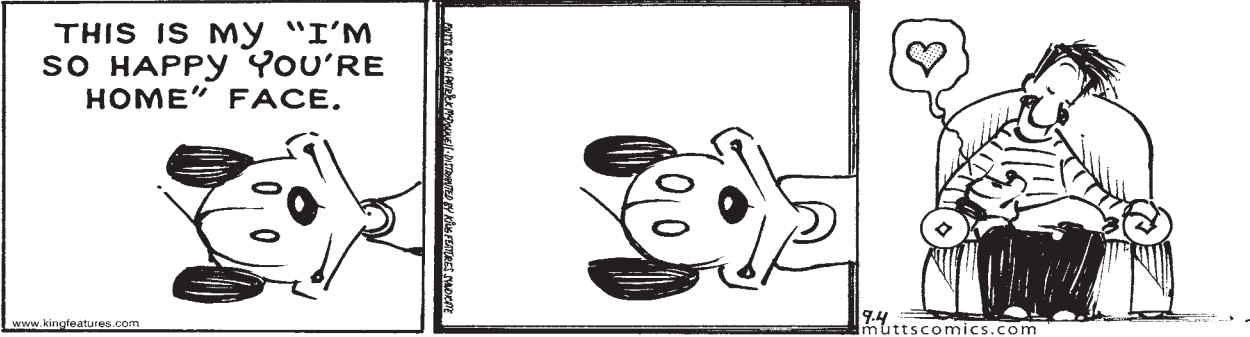
said in a news release.

In 2013, the company posted revenue of 1.76 billion euros, or about \$2.3 billion, and an after-tax loss of 116.6 million euros.

In the first half of this year, a traditionally weaker period for Zalando, the company said it posted revenue of 1.05 billion euros. Zalando also said it had broken even for the first time in the first six months of 2014, which the company on Wednesday labeled "an important milestone."

Zalando, with more than 7,400 employees, offers more than 150,000 articles of clothing and accessories from more than 1,500 brands, and said that its websites received more than 100 million visits a month. The company said it had 20 million customer orders in the first six months of 2014. The underwriters on the IPO will include Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank and JPMorgan Chase. □

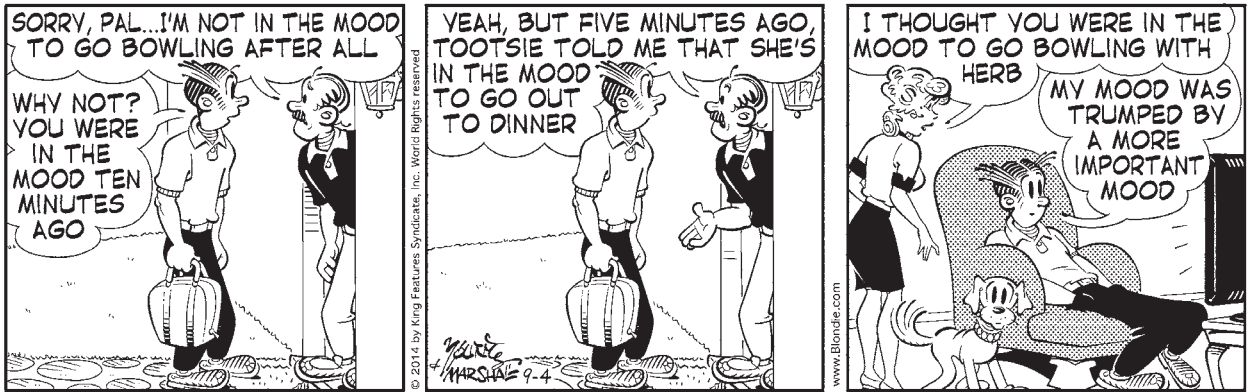
Mutts



6 Chix



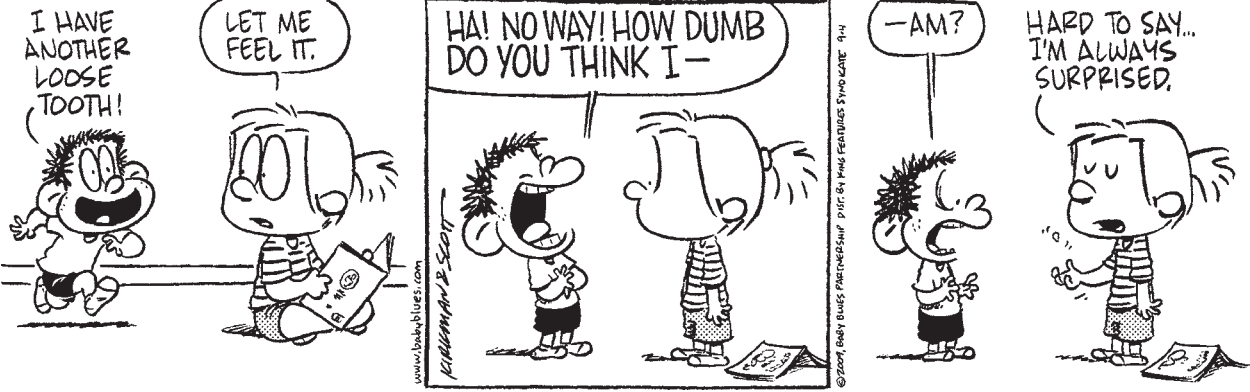
Blondie



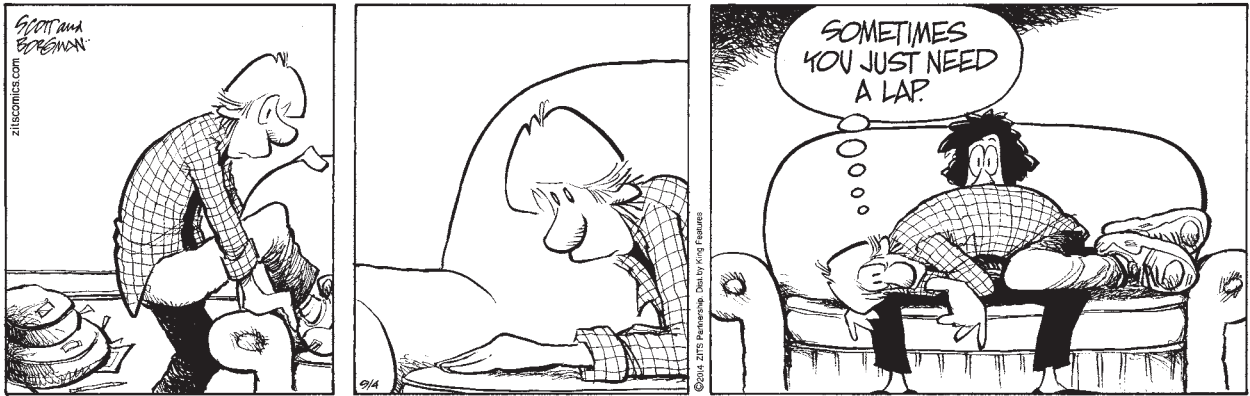
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			1	2				
			7	5				
	5	8				2	3	
2	3						9	5
				4				
6	9						2	7
	6	5				3	7	
			6	1				
			3	8				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	3	7	4	1	5	2	8	9
2	1	4	3	8	9	6	7	5
9	8	5	6	2	7	3	1	4
3	7	6	9	5	8	4	2	1
5	2	8	1	6	4	9	3	7
4	9	1	2	7	3	8	5	6
8	6	3	5	9	1	7	4	2
1	4	9	7	3	2	5	6	8
7	5	2	8	4	6	1	9	3

- ACROSS
- 1 Story line
 - 5 Team director
 - 10 ___ up; become alert
 - 14 Lion's cry
 - 15 TV's Mandel
 - 16 Former spouses
 - 17 Climb ___; mount
 - 18 "The Phantom of the ___"
 - 19 Sound the horn
 - 20 Bothers
 - 22 In a grouchy manner
 - 24 Edison's initials
 - 25 Review of the financial books
 - 26 Valuable thing
 - 29 Yrbk. section
 - 30 Is ahead, so far
 - 34 Sign of a past surgery
 - 35 Talk on and on
 - 36 Bit of corn
 - 37 Little child
 - 38 Deserved
 - 40 Parched
 - 41 Tooth coating
 - 43 Pull hard
 - 44 Part of the foot
 - 45 Of the kidneys
 - 46 Evil spell
 - 47 Dangerous
 - 48 Happen again
 - 50 White lie
 - 51 5-cent coins
 - 54 African nation
 - 58 Seep out
 - 59 Say
 - 61 Thick string
 - 62 Hit flies
 - 63 Plank
 - 64 Robin ___; heroic outlaw of folklore
 - 65 All ___; listening
 - 66 Gives the cold shoulder to
 - 67 Hotels

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20			21			22		23				
		24			25							
26	27	28			29			30	31	32	33	
34				35			36					
37			38			39			40			
41		42			43				44			
45				46				47				
		48		49			50					
51	52	53				54			55	56	57	
58				59		60			61			
62				63					64			
65				66					67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 9/4/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

3 Cereal grains	ALTER	WHEN	ACES
4 Many a horse in harness racing	LOUSE	HERE	RAJA
5 Task	MINCE	EWES	KIEV
6 Fumbler's word	SNEAKERS	TRANCE	
7 Feeling of wonderment	PILE	PLANETS	
8 Three-ring ___; chaotic scene	ASCEND	PEEPS	
9 Got wind of	RHO	GENES	SABOT
10 Dictionary compiler Noah	MUCH	ROCKS	SAGA
11 Chopping tools	SNAIL	MAYOR	ARC
12 ___ over; faint	JAPAN	BASSET	
13 Catch sight of	UPDATED	VEIL	
21 Break a fast	BRACED	TERMINAL	
23 Lubricated	OINK	APEX	EVADE
25 Dispute settler	ADZE	LINE	NERDS
26 Fall flower	TEAR	SETS	TRYST

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- 39 Groom's suit
- 42 Grocery stores
- 44 Small barbecue
- 46 Actress
- 47 Curved edge
- 49 Black cards
- 50 Henry & Gerald
- 51 Schnoz
- 52 Dubuque, ___
- 53 Old Russian leaders' title
- 54 Kosovo native
- 55 Bird on a Canadian dollar
- 56 Common metal
- 57 Finds a sum
- 60 Plato's "T"

Spree minus the shopping in New York

VALERIYA SAFRONOVA

© 2014 New York Times

NEW YORK - Amid the attention surrounding New York Fashion Week, few seem to have noticed the quiet disappearance of Fashion's Night Out, which began with great fanfare in 2009 and lasted all of

agency, the September event was intended to encourage fearful consumers to shop freely once again. Its inaugural night brought Anna Wintour and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg to Macy's in Queens Center, where - appearing alongside Michael Kors and Di-

By 2012, Fashion's Night Out had expanded to 500 cities nationwide and 30 cities internationally, according to the CFDA. Over the years, celebrities signed shoes at Manolo Blahnik (Sarah Jessica Parker), attracted hordes of teenage girls to Dolce & Gabbana, most of them crying ecstatically rather than shopping (Justin Bieber), and posed for photos with the first 300 fans to spend \$135 at Macy's in Herald Square (Jennifer Lopez). Fans of both fashion and pop culture soaked it all in, chaotically streaming through the streets, a trail of empty Champagne glasses in their wake. Despite these outward measures of success, in August, Kelly McCauley, director of communications for the CFDA, confirmed that once again there are no plans to bring the event back to New York.

The CFDA, Vogue and NYC & Co., would not elaborate on why Fashion's Night Out has been canceled in the city (it continues in cities like London and Milan), but Margaret Chin, the New York City Council member who represents an area that includes the SoHo neighborhood, suggested that it may have become too big to properly organize.



FILE -- Anna Wintour, center, the editor-in-chief of Vogue, at Macy's during Fashion's Night Out in New York, Sept. 11, 2009. Amid the attention surrounding New York Fashion Week, few seemed to have noticed the quiet disappearance of Fashion's Night Out, which retailers say didn't draw much profit.

(Robert Stolarik/The New York Times)

four years, going on hiatus in 2013.

Masterminded during the thick of the recession by Vogue, the Council of Fashion Designers of America and NYC & Co., the city's tourism marketing

ane von Furstenberg - the two gave their blessing for an event that kept more than 800 stores in the five boroughs open until 11 p.m., serving up alcohol, discounts and celebrity appearances.

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Divi Dutch Village week 35
starts on 8/30 studio \$2975
local 565-9394 until 9/9
e-mail rmwjmw@aol.com or
US 508 651 0016

202517

TIMESHARE FOR SALE

by owner Divi Golf & Beach
2 rm suite #4206 wk 36 starts on 9/6, lock off master, 2 baths, steps to pool and affinity river, luxury interior granite etc \$5500 and week 40, ground floor, affinity river & pool, 2 baths, luxury interior \$5800 starts on 10/4 (rent in 2014 for \$1050)
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US 508 651 0016

202517

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202515

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202521

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Oranjestad
Dr. Mungra
San Nicolas
Dr. Harmsen

EMERGENCIA 911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

Oranjestad: Sta. Cruz Tel: 585-8028
San Nicolas: Aloe Tel: 584-4606

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP

September 4
Carnival Breeze



Aruba Aiport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

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Aruba

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FUNDACION

Respetami

Tel: 582-4433

Diabetic Foundation

Arubano

Tel: 583-3808

Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

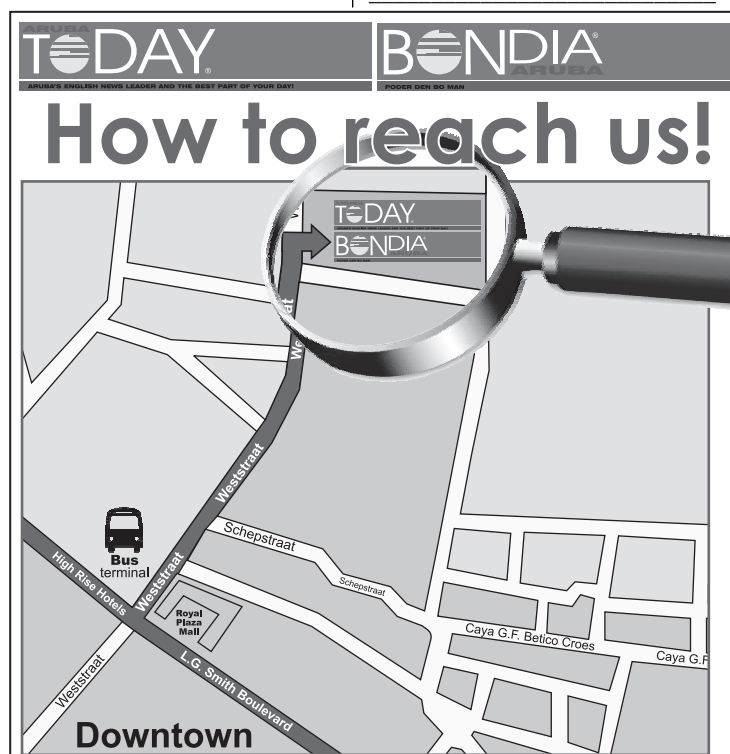
Women in Difficulties

Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002



Study: Playing music helps sharpen kids' brains

JOHN ROGERS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The founder of a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that provides free music lessons to low-income students from gang-ridden neighborhoods began to notice several years ago a hopeful sign: Kids were graduating high school and heading off to UCLA, Tulane and other big universities.

That's when Margaret Martin asked how the children in the Harmony Project were beating the odds.

Researchers at Northwestern University in Illinois believe that the students' music training played a role in their educational achievement, helping as Martin noticed 90 percent of them graduate from high school while 50 percent or more didn't from those same neighborhoods.

A two-year study of 44 children in the program shows that the training changes the brain in ways that make it easier for youngsters to process sounds, according to results reported in Tuesday's edition of *The Journal of Neuroscience*. That increased ability, the researchers say, is linked directly to improved skills in such subjects as reading and speech.

But, there is one catch: People have to actually play an instrument to get smarter. They can't just crank up the tunes on their iPod.

Nina Kraus, the study's lead researcher and director of Northwestern's auditory neuroscience laboratory, compared



Cello instructor Leah Metzler, left, helps LewaNana Pinkney put her fingers in the right spot on the fingerboard during a cello lesson offered by Harmony Project, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that provides free music lessons to low-income students, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014, in Los Angeles.

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the difference to that of building up one's body through exercise. "I like to say to people: You're not going to get physically fit just watching sports," she said.

Kraus said studies like hers are challenging because researchers need to follow subjects for years in order to track changes in the brain. She said more and larger studies need to be done in a variety of districts around the country to "help us understand what are the most effective forms of learning and how might learning be tailored for an individual child."

The latest findings are striking a chord with supporters of such programs who say music is frequently the first cut for school boards looking to save money.

"Over and over, we've learned that children need rich, multisensory

environments, and learning music sort of brings all of that into a package for them," said Mary Luehrsen of the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation, which awards scholarships and research grants for the study of music, adding

the value of music is improving concentration, memory and focus in children.

Benasich, who researches early brain development, said the study's findings are "a game-changer for both the scientific and public policy domains,



Karina Reyes, left, and Damaris Marquez, right, share a laugh with their trombone instructor Shelly Suminski during a lesson offered by Harmony Project, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that provides free music lessons to low-income students, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014, in Los Angeles.

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that the results make the point that music training should be an important part of all school curriculums.

April Benasich, a professor of neuroscience at Rutgers University who was not involved in the study, said previous research by Kraus has demonstrated

particularly in an era when these sorts of enrichment activities are being aggressively eliminated from our schools.

Martin approached the National Institutes of Health, seeking to learn if there was a connection between music and the educational achieve-

ments of the program's 2,000 students. The NIH put her in touch with Kraus, who studies the changes in the brain that occur through auditory exposure. Many of Harmony Project's students have no interest in pursuing professional music careers, Martin said.

Ricardo Torriz, 13, wants to be an engineer. He took up the trumpet and is learning salsa, jazz and classical music. "I wanted to take up the trumpet so I could play in a band like my dad," he said.

Researchers studied the students over two years, attaching scalp electrodes to monitor changes in their brains. Test subjects were selected at random from those on a waiting list to enter the program, hopefully ensuring all test subjects would be equally motivated to work hard.

One of the researchers' key findings was that one year of musical training didn't make a difference in brain changes. Two years did. "We know that a fundamental characteristic of the nervous system is our ability to change as we age, as we interact with our environment. But we can't be changing every second or you'd have a very unstable system," Kraus said.

At the Harmony Project one afternoon last week, the building quickly began to fill with a cacophony of sounds of clarinets, trombones, oboes and other wind instruments as players warmed up. At an adjacent building, cellos were being tuned.

Adelina Flores, whose 11-year-old daughter, America, was a test subject, said she wasn't surprised by the results. Her daughter had already told her she was getting better at math because playing music had taught her to divide notes into fractions and count them out in measures.

"She's improved a lot through this," Adelina Flores said, adding, "And she's grown to be more confident too." □



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Michael Cera: 'You get used to having an audience'

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Brooklyn currently has a love affair with facial hair, is awash with hipsters, tons of kale — and now 100 percent more Michael Cera.

The 26-year-old star of "Juno" and "Superbad" has relocated to the cool New York borough after several years in which he would visit the city and then feel sad when it was time to go home to Los Angeles.

"I was not really enjoying living in L.A. Aside from all my friends out there, the city didn't really fit me, I thought. And vice versa," he says. "I always loved New York. I always wanted to live here since I was a kid."

The move makes sense. If you think about it, Cera has always seemed more of a New Yorker — intellectual, arty, low-key, slyly cynical — than the plastic pretty boys over on the other coast.

The move coincides with Cera exploring new artistic expressions — the release of an indie folk album and his Broadway debut, all this summer. "Yeah, it's a few things happening at once," he says, humbly

and yet guarded.

The play he's chosen is as comfortable a fit with many of Cera's previous film roles as an old T-shirt. It's Kenneth Lonergan's "This Is Our Youth," a portrait of adrift, privileged post-adolescents that co-stars Kieran Culkin and Tavi Gevinson. Cera plays Warren, a nerdy rich kid who shows up at his friend Dennis's Manhattan apartment in 1982 with \$15,000 he has stolen from his menacing father. They come up with a dangerous plan to not only return the money and avoid punishment, but also to party. The script calls Warren "a strange barking-dog of a kid with large tracts of thoughtfulness in his personality" who is "just beginning to find beneath his natural eccentricity a dogged self-possession." In other words, not too much of a stretch.

Cera says he had no doubts he could work onstage. "I would have doubts if it were something different, something completely outside of my wheelhouse. Like a musical, or something. Or, I don't know, Shakespeare." The play over the years has featured such actors as Mark Ruffalo, Josh Ham-



In this Jan. 22, 2013 file photo, Michael Cera, a cast member in "Magic Magic," poses at the premiere of the film at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, in Park City, Utah. Associated Press

ilton, Matt Damon, Colin Hanks, Chris Klein, Jake Gyllenhaal and Anna Paquin. Cera and Culkin first performed the play in Australia in 2012 and added Gevinson and director Anna D. Shapiro for a pre-Broadway run at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company this summer.

"It was definitely really scary the first few times at Steppenwolf," he says. "But that kind of goes away. You get used to having an

audience, I think.

Your body gets used to that in a weird way." To find himself on Broadway, Cera admits, is "pretty far-fetched," especially in a play that centers on the dialogue between disaffected, drug-addled young adults.

"I think it's fascinating that this has no bells and whistles, really," he says. "The value of the experience is this emotional arc and that, for a main-

stream thing, I think that is significant." Shapiro, a Tony Award-winner who directed Tracy Letts' "August: Osage County," calls Cera "really quite honestly one of the most naturally gifted theater actors I've ever seen."

"I adore him. I can't say enough about him. I'd work with him again in a heartbeat. I love what he brings. I love the way he behaves. He makes me laugh," she adds. □

Maya Angelou's work mixed with hip-hop for album

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Maya Angelou's iconic words and lyrics will blend with hip-hop beats for a new album called "Caged Bird Songs."

Shawn Rivera, the lead singer of R&B group Az Yet, and RoccStarr, who co-wrote Chris Brown's "Fine China," produced the 13-song set, to be released through Smooch Music on Nov. 4.

The album — the title taken from Angelou's classic 1969 book "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" — is one of the last projects Angelou completed before she died in May, her grandson said in an interview Tuesday.

"Grandma loved it from the beginning," Colin A. Johnson said of the album's concept. "These guys were inspired by grandma's work, which many people are, and felt like giving it a different medium of delivery to make it more obtainable to a larger group of people."

Rivera and RoccStarr started working on the album before Angelou knew of it. Johnson, who is in charge of Angelou's estate with his father Guy B. Johnson, said once she was aware, she completely backed the project, which was recorded at her North Carolina home. Some of the songs use previously recorded Angelou vocals, while others were record-

ed specifically for the project.

Johnson said Angelou's initial reaction to the songs was similar to when she first saw her own Facebook page: "She just laughed." "She loved it and was excited to hear more about what they wanted to do," he said of the album. "She had a lot of energy around it."

Angelou won three Grammys for her spoken-word albums. She previously released a calypso album and collaborated with Ashford & Simpson for 1996's "Been Found." She also was featured on Common's 2011 album, "The Dreamer/The Believer."

Johnson said his grand-



In a Feb. 15, 2011 file photo, President Barack Obama kisses author and poet Maya Angelou after awarding her the 2010 Medal of Freedom during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington. Associated Press

mother was a fan of hip-hop music.

"She saw (hip-hop) as this generation's way of speaking and conveying a message," said Johnson, adding that Angelou had "great stories about

interactions with Tupac (Shakur)." Johnson said he hopes the album will connect Angelou's work with younger generations. It resounded with his own 13-year-old and 16-year-old children, he said. □

Miranda Lambert earns record-tying 9 CMA noms

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Miranda Lambert released the most ambitious album of her career earlier this year and Country Music Association voters responded by giving her a record-tying load of nominations. Lambert has nine nominations for the 48th annual CMA Awards, tying her own mark for the most nods to a female nominee, and nearly doubling her nearest competitor when the list was announced Wednesday in New York. Dierks Bentley is next with five nominations and Eric Church and Keith Urban have four apiece. The 30-year-old Lambert is up for top honor entertainer of the year along with husband Blake Shelton and has nominations for major categories album of the year for "Platinum," song and single of the year for "Automatic," and is vying for her fifth straight female vocalist of the year trophy. She's been among the top CMA nominees and winners since "Revolution" won album of the year in 2010 and now has 34 CMA nominations — behind Reba McEntire, Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn among women. Urban, George Strait and Luke Bryan round out the entertainer of the year category where Lambert and Bryan are seeking their first win in that category. Bryan and Urban also are up for album of the year. Bryan's



In this June 4, 2014 file photo, Miranda Lambert performs on stage at the CMT Music Awards at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. Associated Press

"Crash My Party" and Urban's "Fuse" join Bentley's "Riser" and Church's "The Outsiders" in the category. New artist of the year nominees are Brandy Clark, Brett Eldredge, Kip Moore, Thomas Rhett and Cole Swindell. Bryan and Shelton are tied with Kacey Musgraves and Carrie Underwood with three nominations apiece. The nominations were announced on ABC's "Good Morning America" and at a news conference by Darius Rucker and Little Big Town. Underwood and Brad Paisley host the Nov. 5 show live from Nashville, Tennessee. Lambert padded out her list of nominations with two apiece in the vocal event

("Somethin' Bad" with Underwood and "We Were Us" with Urban) and music video ("Automatic" and "Somethin' Bad") categories. "Automatic," the first single from "Platinum," was nominated for both song and single of the year as well. Lambert tied with Merle Haggard for second most nominations overall. Only Alan Jackson in 2002 had more nominations in a single year with 10. Shelton and Lambert will be attempting to extend their record streak of wins by a married couple in the male and female vocalist categories. Each has won four straight. Lambert will be competing against Under-

wood, Musgraves, Taylor Swift and Martina McBride. Shelton faces Bentley, Bryan, Church and Urban. The haul of nominations was a career best for Bentley, whose album "Riser" includes personal material from his own life, including his reaction to his father's death and the birth of his son. "It was totally unexpected," Bentley said. "Dude, I'm not the guy who gets nominated. I'm the guy who knows the guy who gets nominated. That's not who I am. I'm the guy who sits in the chair with my wife when the cameras come in close to get the 'you just lost' reaction shot."

Voters have an interesting choice to make in the entertainer of the year category. Lambert and Bryan are arguably the genre's top stars and voters could justifiably reward either with a trophy that goes hand in hand with superstar status. Strait is seeking his second consecutive win in the category after announcing he would retire from the road. He played his final concert earlier this year, setting attendance records at the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium. And "American Idol" judge Urban and "The Voice" coach Shelton remain two of country's most visible stars. Urban won the entertainer award in 2005 and says he felt a "euphoria" when he learned he was back among the nominees. The category signals that a performer has reached the top of the genre in many ways, including as an artist, a live performer and a role model. "The criteria for entertainer is a mix of things, but I guess for me I've always considered it to be hopefully primarily about the kind of show that we put on and entertaining people at the live concerts," Urban said in a phone interview. "I know it's about more than that, but for me it's really been about that, about putting on a tour. That's something I've always taken with intense passion, detail and care, and so to get that nomination is extraordinary." □

Alicia Keys ready for December release: baby No.2

LAURI NEFF
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Alicia Keys, who often releases albums in November and December, says she is preparing for another delivery at the end of the year: her second baby. "December album? Well, I know one thing. I'm having a December baby," the singer said with a laugh in an interview Tuesday. The Grammy winner says she and husband, producer-rapper Swizz Beatz, know the sex of the baby, but that she's "not sharing."



In this July 4, 2014 file photo, Alicia Keys attends the 2014 Essence Music Festival Concert - Day 2 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, in New Orleans. Associated Press

Their son, Egypt, turns 4 next month. And if baby

No. 2 is anything like their first child, music will be a

major part of its life. "He's a little music fanatic. He has all this rhythm. He loves to dance. He can play drums. He can beatbox," Keys said at an event to launch her new Givenchy perfume, Dahlia Divin, at the Macy's flagship store in Manhattan. "I think that you do see how just the influence of music and perhaps it is in the DNA, and perhaps it is a part of the magic of what's inside of the parents that it's coming through him." Keys' last album was 2012's "Girl on Fire," which won a Grammy this

year for best R&B album. She was coy about when she will release her next album, which includes production work by Pharrell. Keys will appear as a mentor for Pharrell's team on NBC's "The Voice," which premieres Monday. "What I know for a fact is it's the best music I've ever done in my life yet and it's really exciting to be able to have this kind of growth, this type of opportunity," she said. "The music's actually pretty much done already and so you'll be hearing some of it soon." □

Obama and the Warmongers



CHARLES M. BLOW
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We seem to be drifting inexorably toward escalating our fight with the Islamic State, which is also known by the acronym ISIS, as the Obama administration mulls whether to extend its "limited" bombing campaign into Syria.

Part of the reasoning is alarm at the speed and efficiency with which Islamic State - a militant group President Barack Obama described as "barbaric" - has made gains in northern Iraq and has been able to wash back and forth across the Syrian border. Part is because of the group's ghastly beheading of the American journalist James Foley - which Michael Morell, a former deputy director of the CIA, called Islamic State's "first terrorist attack against the United States" - and threats to behead another.

But another part of the equation is the tremendous political pressure coming from the screeching of war hawks and an anxious and frightened public, weighted most heavily among Republicans and exacerbated by the right-wing media machine.

In fact, when the president tried to tamp down some of the momentum around more swift and expansive military action by indicating that he had not decided how best to move forward militarily in Syria, if at all, what Politico called an "inartful phrase" caught fire in conservative circles. When responding to questions, the president said, "We don't have a strategy yet."

His aide insisted that the phrase was only about how to move forward in Syria, not against Islamic State as a whole, but the latter was exactly the impression conservatives moved quickly to portray.

It was a way of continuing to yoke Obama with the ill effects of a war started by his predecessor and the chaos it created in that region of the world.

In fact, if you listen to Fox News you might even believe that Obama is responsible for the creation of Islamic State.

A few months ago, the Fox News host Judge Jeanine Pirro told her viewers that "you need to be afraid" because of Obama's fecklessness in dealing with Islamic State, adding this nugget: "And the head of this band of savages is a man named Abu al-Baghdadi - the new Osama bin Laden - a man released by Obama in 2009 who started ISIS

a year later."

That would be extremely troubling, if true. But the fact-checking operation PolitiFact rated it "false," saying:

"The Defense Department said that the man now known as Baghdadi was released in 2004. The evidence that Baghdadi was still in custody in 2009 appears to be the recollection of an Army colonel who said Baghdadi's 'face is very familiar.'

"Even if the colonel is right, Baghdadi was not set free; he was handed over to the Iraqis who released him some time later. But, more important, the legal contract between the United States and Iraq that guaranteed that the United States would give up custody of virtually every detainee was signed during the Bush administration."

Fox, facts; oil, water.

But the disturbing reality is that the scare tactics are working. In July, a Pew Research Center report found that most Americans thought the United States didn't have a responsibility to respond to the violence in Iraq.

According to a Pew Research Center report issued last week, however: "Following the beheading of American journalist James Foley, two-thirds of the public (67 percent) cite ISIS as a major threat to the United States."

The report said that 91 percent of Tea Party Republicans described Islamic State as a "major threat" as opposed to 65 percent of Democrats and 63 percent of independents.

The report also said:

"Half of the sample was asked about ISIS and the other half was asked about the broader threat of 'Islamic extremist groups like al-Qaida,'" which registered similar concern (71 percent major threat, 19 percent minor threat, 6 percent not a threat). Democrats were more likely to see global climate change than Islamic State as a major threat.

Americans were thrilled by our decision to exit Iraq when we did, but support for that decision is dropping. In October 2011, Gallup asked poll respondents if they approved or disapproved of Obama's decision that year to "withdraw nearly all United States troops from Iraq." Seventy-five percent said they approved. In June of this year, the approval rate had fallen to 61 percent.

Yet 57 percent still believe that it was a mistake to send troops to fight in Iraq in the first place.

Now, Republicans are beginning to pull out the big gun - 9/11 - to further scare the public into supporting more action. Sen. Lindsey Graham has said on Fox News that we must act to "stop another 9/11," possibly a larger one, and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen has warned, "Sadly, we're getting back to a pre-9/11 mentality, and that's very dangerous."

Fear is in the air. The president is trying to take a deliberative approach, but he may be drowned out by the drums of war and the chants for blood. □



High Tea With Mr. Fancypants Sheen



MAUREEN DOWD
© 2014 NEW YORK TIMES

Is sex more important than music, war, sports and vampires? Is sex more important than Nixon?

Michael Sheen thinks so. The nimble Welsh actor has played a royal flush of renowned men - Mozart, Tony Blair (three times), the English soccer manager Brian Clough and David Frost in "Frost/Nixon." He also starred as a villainous vampire in the "Twilight" movies. Asked how he rates the importance of historical figures he has channeled, he places his current conjuring, William Masters in Showtime's mesmerizing "Masters of Sex," on top.

"Sex, sexuality, is something every single person has to engage in, whether you're actively pursuing, avoiding, enjoying in the moment or regretting later," Sheen says over tea at Trump SoHo, looking sharp in a black Armani suit and black Prada tie. "So anyone who's played a part in affecting that, I suppose it's about as wide-ranging as it gets, really."

Sheen contended that while the revolutionary research Masters did with his partner and later wife, Virginia Johnson, did not always lead them to correct conclusions - they claimed to have made some homosexuals straight and overstated how easily HIV could be contracted - at least they were trying to measure things scientifically, unlike Alfred Kinsey, whose research comprised interviews.

"All you have to do is talk to

someone about their sex life to get a sense of how untrustworthy each of us might be about that," Sheen said dryly.

In the show, Masters suggests to Johnson that they have research sex, noting that "we get the benefit of interpreting the data first hand." Later, he tells her it's a condition of her job.

But Sheen and the alluring Lizzy Caplan, plus the writing, soften the nasty coercion on his part and coldblooded careerism on hers with a subtext of mutual attraction.

Late in life, Johnson told the biographer Thomas Maier that she had never desired Masters, only the job.

"It is sexual harassment," Sheen said, but "they both have different agendas. Conscious and unconscious motivations are something we're playing with in the show."

He also suggests that there may have been "a bit of revisionism" on Johnson's part, colored by the fact that Masters seemed to prefer his Doberman pinschers and left her after 22 years for a woman he'd had a crush on in college.

"While at the beginning he was quite intimidating and wasn't an easily likable man and Virginia was the one people warmed to, by the end, it had completely reversed," Sheen said.

He noted that there's a "Beauty and the Beast" undersong to their telling of the relationship of Masters and Johnson, a sexually free woman who had a stint as a country singer and three divorces behind her when she became his secretary in her early 30s.

He said he chose to play Masters as "one of the hardest characters to ever like in a lead role," knowing that it would make the arrogant gynecologist's rare displays of vulnerability more affecting. "I only ever play myself, with the volume turned up on certain aspects.

If I was playing anyone else, I'd be acting and I hate acting."

I note that the repellent Masters was the opposite of Blair and Frost, who tried to ingratiate.

"American audiences, at that

time anyway, tended to go, 'Oh, we love Blair and we love what you do because you make him so likable,'" he said. "

People hate Blair in Britain and saw what I was doing as a kind of criticism of him, that he was false, opportunistic, ambitious. Same with Frost."

Sheen is also in the spotlight for his romance with Sarah Silverman, who came to New York with him. When the 43-year-old Silverman won an Emmy for her HBO special, she made an affectionate reference to "Mr. Fancypants Sheen."

At another red carpet event, the raunchy comedienne grabbed her proper boyfriend's butt.

"She sort of makes a big deal of me doing Shakespeare and I know lots of words and it just makes me laugh," said the 45-year-old Sheen, who, like Silverman, has never been married.

Not a fan of living in Los Angeles - he is there to raise his 15-year-old daughter, Lily, with ex-girlfriend Kate Beckinsale - Sheen said "one of the things I really appreciate about Sarah is that she's not concerned about a lot of things that a lot of people are concerned about in LA." She's "grounded," he said, yet "just as out there and quirky and eccentric as anyone in LA but in a lovely way."

After they began dating last winter, she took a role in the Showtime show as a lesbian palm reader.

He seems like the buttoned-up part of the twosome - a variation on the odd-couple romance he had with Tina Fey on "30 Rock" as Brit Wesley Snipes - but Sheen has a wild side, or at least a "Where the Wild Things Are" side. His daughter gave him an adult Max suit for Christmas a couple years ago because he loves the Maurice Sendak character so much.

"What I actually want to do, if I can get the guts together eventually, is eschew clothes altogether and just wear that," he says with a delighted grin. "I just want to be the guy in the Max outfit." □

Jenna Lyons: Idiosyncrasy, Ready for Its Cameo

BEE SHAPIRO

© 2014 New York Times

Jenna Lyons, the president and executive creative director of J. Crew, was born in Boston and raised in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. Known for her idiosyncratic mix of quirk, prep and tailoring, Lyons has emerged in recent years as a fashion star, including cameos on the HBO series "Girls." She lives in SoHo with her 7-year-old son, Beckett. The J. Crew spring collection will be shown Tuesday.

SKIN CARE

The woman I go to for facials, Aida Bica, recommended Biologique Recherche. That's how I start my day. I use the P50 lotion; it's my favorite thing that I don't leave home without. I have large ones, travel-size ones; I have them in the office, at home, in my pockets. Then usually I'll use an exfoliant by Arcona. They make a really fine scrub that I love.

I also have this Shiseido eye stuff I'm obsessed with. It's lightweight, and I put that all over my face, which is completely ridiculous. And I have a Shu Uemura big red bottle of moisturizer and a small red bottle of serum called Intense Vitalizing Concentrate. It comes with an eye dropper, which means it must be good. There's also this Biologique Recherche serum called Yall. It's not cheap. I'm hoping it makes me look younger, but I don't know.

My nighttime routine starts with a glass of wine. I actually shower at night. I'm not a big fan of getting wet in the morning. I love Fresh Brown Sugar scrub and body wash - just the name makes me happy. I wish I could say I consistently do the same skin care at night as in the morning, but I'd be lying. It's the same stable of products, though. Also, I am kind of obsessed with Dr. Jart Premium Firming Sleeping Mask. Sometimes I even use it during the day.

MAKEUP

I use this Shu Uemura eye makeup palette. It has all different shades of brown and some pale pink. I love

Chantecaille mascara because it's not heavy. I have, like, four lashes, and it looks silly if you goop on thick mascara. Then I'll use the Tom Ford eyeliner. I

then it's no lip. One of my favorites: a Bobbi Brown navy shadow that makes my eyes look light even though they are dark brown. The other thing I love is this pot

also use Oribe moisturizing cream, which is incredible. I got a good sample at C.O. Bigelow and was hooked. This summer, I put it in my hair and then went into

cally in consistency. I don't have words you can print to describe it: It's thinner in some patches, coarser in others. Hence, the hairstyle. I wear it slicked back so no



Jenna Lyons, J. Crew's president and creative director, in the company offices in New York, Aug. 21, 2014. Known for her idiosyncratic mix of quirk, prep and tailoring, Lyons has emerged in recent years as a fashion star.

(Yana Paskova/The New York Times)

love how it has two different sides. I have to wear liquid liner. Since I don't have lashes, I don't have a holding line. Anything other than liquid liner makes me look like a bug. I also have this Shiseido gray eyebrow pencil. I've been buying it since the seventh grade. I was walking by the counter in the mall one day, and the woman there called me over and said, "I have to do something about your eyebrows." She drew in my eyebrows and changed my life. For lips, I love the bright oranges and coral pinks from Bite. And I do wear foundation, but I haven't really found the perfect one. I need help with that. A lot of them go in my eyes.

For night, I actually change it up a lot. I love nothing more than a smoky eye, but

of sparkly eye stuff by Stila. You mix it with this little drop of solution that comes with it and make this paste. It's total high school stuff.

FRAGRANCE

I've been wearing Creed Silver Mountain Water for years. It's something that I want to hide because I don't want anyone to smell like me. The last year, I've been working with Arquiste on J. Crew scents, which has been such an interesting experience. I'd wear the trial samples and noticed that scent changes the way people respond to you. For me, my scent has become part of my personality.

HAIR

I love Sachajuan shampoo and leave-in conditioner. I

the salt water to get that beach-y look.

But I don't get my hair cut or dyed. I had a haircut disaster at 40. Actually, let me backtrack. At 30, I cut bangs and everyone said it was the biggest mistake of my life. Then for some reason, at 40, I took a picture of Alexa Chung and tried to get my hair cut like hers. I don't look like her. My hair texture is nothing like hers. Who knows why I did it! A friend from California was staying with me, and her first reaction was, "Oh, my God, I thought you were wearing a wig." I've been recovering from that haircut, which was years ago. I literally haven't had my hair cut since.

But after having the kid, my hair stopped growing anyway. It also changed drasti-

one can tell what's going on.

SERVICES

Aida, I try to see every two to three months. Every once in a while, I'll have my nails done by Jin Soon (Choi). About three months ago, I started getting massages by Nikki Yarnell. She'll come to the house. The first time I called Nikki, my hip and back were hurting, and I didn't have time to visit my favorite place in the whole world: the Greenwich Hotel spa. The pool is incredible.

DIET AND FITNESS

I lift some really heavy sequins during the day. And I walk in 5-inch heels regularly, which I believe is really good for my calves. Do we have to talk about diet and fitness? □